

V16 IN SAYING BEHOLD JESUS INDICATED HIS DESIRE FOR THE TWELVE TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO WHAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SAY HE HAD GIVEN THEM AUTHORITY OVER UNCLEAN SPIRITS TO CAST THEM OUT AND TO HEAL EVERY KIND OF DISEASE AND EVERY KIND OF SICKNESS MATT 10:1

THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE PREVENTED FROM SUFFERING SO JESUS WANTS TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEY WOULD SUFFER OPPOSITION JESUS SAID I SEND YOU OUT AS SHEEP IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES I AM SENDING YOU OUT IN ENEMY TERRITORY HE TELLS THEM THERE WILL BE HARDSHIP SUFFERING AND DEATH

SO BE SHREWD AS SERPENTS AND INNOCENT AS DOVES JESUS DOES NOT SEND OUT HIS FOLLOWERS WITHOUT WARNING THEM ABOUT THE DEMANDS AND DANGERS OF DISCIPLESHIP JESUS ADVISES THEM TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES WITH WISDOM TOWARD OUTSIDERS MAKING THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY COL 4:5

WE ARE TO LOVE OUR ENEMIES AND DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO HATE US JESUS COMMITTED NO SIN NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH AND WHILE BEING REVILED HE DID NOT REVILE IN RETURN WHILE SUFFERING HE UTTERED NO THREATS BUT KEPT ENTRUSTING HIMSELF TO HIM WHO JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY 1 PETER 2:23

V17-18 JESUS PROCEEDS TO IDENTIFY THE WOLVES BEWARE OF MEN AND THEN GIVES WARNINGS ABOUT FOUR AREAS RELIGION GOVERNMENT FAMILY AND SOCIETY IN GENERAL INTERTWINED IN THE WARNINGS ARE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT ATTITUDES HIS DISCIPLES SHOULD HAVE AND THE PROVISION THE HEAVENLY FATHER PROVIDES

THE ULTIMATE ENEMIES AGAINST WHOM WE STRUGGLE ARE SATAN AND HIS DEMONIC HOST THE NON FLESH AND BLOOD RULERS POWERS WORLD FORCES OF THIS DARKNESS SPIRITUAL FORCES OF WICKEDNESS IN HEAVENLY PLACES EPH 6:12 BUT THE AGENTS OF THOSE SUPERNATURAL ENEMIES ARE HUMAN BEINGS IT IS THROUGH MEN THAT SATAN OPPOSES AND PERSECUTES THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

MEN ARE THE WOLVES WHO OPPRESS IMPRISON TORTURE AND KILL GOD'S PEOPLE FOR THEY WILL HAND YOU OVER TO THE COURTS AND SCOURGE YOU IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES THAT IS PERSECUTION BY RELIGION

V18 NEXT JESUS DEALS WITH PERSECUTION BY GOVERNMENT YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE GOVERNORS AND KINGS IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF THE SHEEP THEMSELVES BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR SHEPHERD IT IS FOR MY SAKE JESUS SAID THE WORLD HATES CHRISTIANS BECAUSE THE WORLD HATES CHRIST JOHN 15:18-21

AS A TESTIMONY TO THEM AND THE GENTILES PERSECUTED BELIEVERS ARE A LIVING REBUKE AGAINST THEIR PERSECUTORS AND UNBELIEVING GENTILES

V19-20 GOD WILL PROVIDE FOR US WHEN YOU ARE BEING PERSECUTED DO NOT BE ANXIOUS AS TO WHAT YOU WILL SAY WHEN YOU ARE BROUGHT BEFORE GOVERNORS AND KINGS IT SHALL BE GIVEN IN THAT HOUR WHAT YOU ARE TO SAY FOR IT IS NOT YOU WHO SPEAKS BUT IT IS THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER WHO SPEAKS IN YOU HE HAS NOT LEFT YOU TO YOURSELF HE WILL SPEAK THROUGH YOU

V21 THE PERSECUTION OF FAMILY BROTHER WILL BETRAY BROTHER TO DEATH YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED BY YOUR OWN FAMILY MATT 10:35-36 YOUR ENEMIES WILL BE MEMBERS OF YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD

V22 YOU WILL BE HATED BY ALL WHEN YOU CONFRONT PEOPLE WITH THE TRUTH THEY DON'T LIKE IT THEY DON'T SEE THEIR NEED FOR A SAVIOR THEY THINK THEY ARE GOOD PEOPLE AND CAN SAVE THEMSELVES

IT IS THE ONE WHO ENDURES TO THE END WHO WILL BE SAVED YOUR LOVE FOR GOD WILL BE TESTED PERSECUTION REVEALS WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE MATT 10:37 -39

V23 THE RESPONSE THEY WERE TO KEEP MOVING GOING FROM CITY TO CITY UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS