

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“Prepare to Be Persecuted” outline**  
June 2, 2019

**Matthew 10: 16-23**

*Jesus is in the process of sending His disciples out on their first mission trip. They are to go out to the lost sheep of the house of Israel proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom and confirming it with signs and wonders indicating the reality of that Kingdom....even in this present world. But now Jesus begins to warn these same disciples that, in spite of the “good news” of their proclamation and the power of the miraculous wonders that the Spirit will work through them, they should prepare to be rejected and even physically resisted.*

*Today we will consider Jesus' effort to prepare His disciples for this impending persecution, various sources of such persecution and discern our proper response to it.*

**1. The Provocation**

**2. The Persecution**

- **Wolves v. 16**
  
- **Religious/civil authorities vv. 17-18**
  
- **Family v. 21**  
**Matt. 10:37**
  
- **Hated by all**  
**I Jn 3: 13; Matt 5: 13-16**

**3. Our Perseverance**

- **Snakes and Doves v. 16**  
**Rom. 12: 17-21; 16:19**
  
- **No worry or fear v. 19**  
**I Jn 4:18**
  
- **Endurance v. 22**  
**Dan. 12:13**
  
- **Flee v. 23**  
**Dan. 7: 13-14; Matt. 28**
  
- **Spirit empowered v. 19**  
**Heb. 4: 12; Jn 16:33**

### **Questions for Discussion and Reflection**

1. **Have you ever been persecuted for your witness for Christ? What form did this persecution take? How did it compare with the first disciples of Jesus? Have you ever been persecuted for other, less noble, reasons? Do you think some Christian's are persecuted for how they witness for Christ? Can you give examples? Are words of truth sufficient for an adequate Christian witness?**
  
2. **If you came to Christ later in life, did you ever persecute believers who were attempting to tell you about Jesus? What was it about their witness that you found offensive?**
  
3. **What are some reasons that people today might be offended by the gospel of Christ? What are some reasons people today might be offended by the messengers of this gospel? Is having a sound apologetic adequate to convince the unbeliever that Christianity is true? Why not? Why are people able to resist or reject valid arguments to the truth? Have you ever seen a debate where one subject's arguments were clearly refuted by the other and this person actually changed their minds and said, "*I was wrong...you have convinced me of the truth of your position.*" Why do we seldom see such displays of a humble pursuit of truth....even among Christians?**
  
4. **What is it about the gospel that provokes people to attempt to destroy it?**