

Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles (continued)



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 10:16	Jesus warns the disciples that He is sending them out like sheep among wolves and instructs them to be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves.	Sheep – vulnerability; Wolves – hostility; Shrewd (phronimos) – wise, discerning; Innocent (akēraios) – pure, unmixed with evil.	Jesus prepares His followers for opposition and teaches balance between wisdom and purity.	Be discerning yet gentle—wise in dealing with opposition, but pure in heart and motive.
Matthew 10:17	He warns them to be on guard, as they will be handed over to local councils and flogged in synagogues.	Handed over (paradidōmi) – betrayed or delivered; Flogged – physical punishment.	Following Jesus may bring persecution from both religious and civil authorities.	Expect hardship in discipleship, but remain faithful under pressure.
Matthew 10:18	They will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.	Witness (martyrion) – testimony; Governors/kings – political rulers; Gentiles (ethnos) – nations.	Persecution becomes an opportunity to testify of Christ before the world.	Use trials as platforms to declare your faith and God's truth.
Matthew 10:19	When arrested, they must not worry about what to say, for the Spirit will give them the words at that time.	Worry (merimnaō) – anxiety; Spirit of your Father – divine guidance.	The Holy Spirit empowers believers with wisdom and words under pressure.	Trust the Spirit's leading; God equips you when you stand for Him.
Matthew 10:20	"For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."	Spirit (pneuma) – breath, life; Father – intimate, personal God.	God Himself speaks through His people when they face opposition.	Surrender control—allow God to speak through your life and words.

Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 10:21	Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.	Betray (paradidōmi) – deliver up; Rebel (epanistēmi) – rise up against.	The gospel divides even families; loyalty to Christ surpasses earthly ties.	Remain steadfast in your faith even if it costs relationships.
Matthew 10:22	“You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”	Hated (miseō) – detested; Stand firm (hypomenō) – endure patiently; Saved (sōzō) – delivered, preserved.	Endurance is the mark of genuine discipleship; persecution refines true faith.	Persevere through trials knowing that salvation belongs to those who endure.
Matthew 10:23	When persecuted in one place, flee to another. Jesus says they will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.	Flee (pheugō) – escape danger; Son of Man – Messianic title; Comes – implies ongoing mission until Christ’s return.	The mission continues despite persecution; the gospel must keep advancing.	Don’t quit—move forward in faith and continue spreading the gospel wherever God sends you.

Summary Revelation

Jesus forewarns His disciples that the **path of following Him is filled with danger, division, and persecution**. Yet in every trial, **the Holy Spirit provides strength, words, and endurance**. The faithful are not to fear but to endure, knowing that **each challenge becomes a testimony and every persecution advances the mission of Christ**.

Cross References

Matthew 10:16

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

- **Cross References**
 - Luke 10:3 – “I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”
 - Philippians 2:15 – Be blameless and pure, shining among a crooked generation.
 - Romans 16:19 – Be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil.
 - **Theme:** God’s people must combine **wisdom with purity** to navigate a hostile world.
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Matthew 10:17

“Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.”

- **Cross References**
 - Acts 5:40–41 – The apostles are flogged and rejoice for suffering for Christ.
 - Mark 13:9 – Warning of being handed over to councils and beaten.
 - John 16:2 – “They will put you out of the synagogues.”
 - **Theme:** **Persecution is inevitable**, but it brings opportunity to honor Christ.
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Matthew 10:18

“On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.”

- **Cross References**

- Acts 9:15 – Paul is chosen to bear Christ’s name before kings and Gentiles.
 - Acts 26:1–29 – Paul testifies before King Agrippa.
 - Luke 21:13 – “This will result in your being witnesses to them.”
 - **Theme: Trials are testimonies**—God uses opposition as a stage for witness.
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Matthew 10:19

“Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say.”

- **Cross References**
 - Luke 12:11–12 – The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say.
 - Exodus 4:12 – God tells Moses, “I will help you speak and teach you what to say.”
 - **Theme: The Spirit gives wisdom and words** in moments of trial.
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Matthew 10:20

“For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

- **Cross References**
 - Acts 4:8–13 – Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly speaks before rulers.
 - 2 Samuel 23:2 – “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me.”
 - John 15:26–27 – The Spirit testifies about Jesus through believers.
 - **Theme: The Holy Spirit empowers and speaks through God’s people.**
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Matthew 10:21

“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents.”

- **Cross References**
 - Micah 7:6 – Family members turn against each other.
 - Luke 12:52–53 – The gospel divides households.
 - John 15:18–19 – The world hates those who belong to Christ.
 - **Theme:** The gospel brings **division and betrayal** among even close relationships.
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Matthew 10:22

“You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

- **Cross References**
 - Matthew 24:13 – “He who endures to the end will be saved.”
 - John 16:33 – “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart!”
 - Revelation 2:10 – Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
 - **Theme: Endurance through persecution** is the evidence of true faith.
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Matthew 10:23

“When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another.”

- **Cross References**
 - Acts 8:1–4 – Believers scatter after persecution and spread the word.
 - Matthew 24:9–14 – Persecution precedes the worldwide spread of the gospel.
 - Luke 21:12–19 – Jesus’ followers will face trials before His return.
- **Theme: The mission continues despite persecution**—the gospel advances wherever believers go.