**The Instructions Say …**

Matthew 10:16-25

August 10, 2025

**Introduction**

 Every husband in here has heard their wife say to them ‘did you read the instructions?’

 Every wife in here has said to their husband ‘did you read the instructions?’

 Its not that men can’t read rather

 Men have a stubborn streak

they think they know what to do, want to figure it out for themselves

don’t want to ask

 don’t need help

 often times after fussing around for awhile and getting frustrated – finally go to the

instructions

 I know that instructions are often hard to understand, in small print but there to help

 This past week – I was trying to use label printer Sandy had bought, couldn’t get it to do

what I wanted. Sandy brought me the instructions, I read and I solved problem

 2 Weeks ago we looked at Matthew 10:1-16 Jesus sending out His 12 disciples and He

was giving them instructions, main thing Jesus said: having a going mindset

 I noted to you that some of what Jesus said He was saying specifically to the twelve

 He gave *them* power to heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead

 Today we continue with JS instructions … What do JS Instructions Say? some to 12 some also2us

**1st What Jesus Is Doing With You 16a**

 1st Century Disciples – behold I send you out

 Behold i.e. listen up

 They had been with Jesus, observing, learning, training, taught

 Now Jesus sends them out, i.e. away from Himself, on their own, training, see v5

 21st Century Disciples

 Listen up and read the instruction manual first

 Equipping and learning in the church

 Sent out to apply, to try, to put into practice

**2nd How You Should Think of Yourself 16b**

 1st Century Disciples – as sheep

 Ps23:1 – the Lord is my Shepherd

 Is53:6 – all we like sheep have gone astray

 Ezk 34:10 – thus says the Lord, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them

 Mt9:36 – Jesus moved with compassion seeing the multitudes like sheep w/o…

 J10:14,27 – I am the good Shepherd 14…My sheep hear My voice27

 Why Jesus think of them as sheep? Sheep depend on the shepherd for survival

 21st Century Disciples

 If you could be like any animal, you probably would not pick a sheep, but JS did

 Dependent on the Lord, look to Him,

**3rd Where You Are Going 16c**

 1st Century Disciples – in the midst of wolves

 Wolves are enemies of sheep

 Wolves kill sheep

 Jesus sends His disciples as sheep into a world that has wolves, i.e. ppl destroy

 they are surrounded by enemies/danger, He is honest w dangers they face

 21st Century Disciples

 Spiritual dangers and enemies everywhere

 Do not be naïve, as a believer many would devour you

 U should not to be afraid or absent, you were sent, He is with you always Mt28:20

**4th What You Need To Be 16d**

 1st Century Disciples – be wise as serpents and innocent as doves

 Being – character, who you are inside, the nature of who you are

 Two figures that illustrate again from the animal world

 Serpents thought to be wise, clever, cunning i.e. using your brain and calculating

your circumstances and those around you, cautious, shrewd

 doves – harmless, pure, unmixed, innocent, no danger to anyone, peace, gentle

 21st Century Disciples

 Christians need to be wise and prudent

 So much of the Sermon on the Mount is about being, character

 No matter what circumstances surround you, how bad people are to you

 You need to evidence your Christian character – who you are in Christ

 Avoid conflicts, innocent, don’t be naïve, E6:10 be strong in the Lord

**5th What You Should Expect 17-25**

 1st Century Disciples

 Beware of men – they will deliver you up to …17-20

 When you are delivered up do not worry about what you will say

 Help from the Holy Spirit, be on guard

 Brother deliver brother, father his children, children rise up against parents 21

 Hated by all for My names sake, Acts…apostles saw in apostolic ear of the church

 Endure to the end will be saved, stand firm

 Persecuted in one city flee to the next, not have gone through all the cities before

 the Son of Man comes

 Disciple not above his teacher, nor a servant his master, enough to be like his

 Teacher and servant like his master

 If they call the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more the household

 Beelzebub/Beelzeboul[NU]i.e. prince of demons 2Kn12Mt1224Lk1115

 Shocking insult and charge

 Do not fear them, all will be revealed, all will be known

 21st Century Disciples

 I think we have some wrong expectations as Christians in our world

 Many Christians in the country, majority, entitled, deserving…

 We have a feeling of ‘entitlement’ – we might feel we deserve better because we

are Christian, better from our world, from those who might mistreat us

you may be treated better than Jesus, but don’t expect it/act like Udeserve

 Christian entitlement is a myth – we only think this way because Christianity is

widespread in our country.

Christianity is on the decline in our culture, we are increasingly a secular

Culture

 We need to recover the right pursuit i.e. Paul in Ph 3:8-10

 2Ti3:12all desire to live godly suffer persecution

 Study 1Peter, word ‘suffer’ 18X’s, more twice as much as any other book

 e.g. 2:19,21 3:14 4:1,13,19 5:10

 We need to endure and persevere through difficulties and overcome

 PTL that widespread persecution of Christians is not what we face

 But we need to press forward to the things that Jesus instructed us in

 Persecution and trouble should be expected because you are a Christian

 Don’t expect ppl to receive U with open arms because U are a Christian

 We can expect similar treatment to the early disciples and Jesus

 We do not need to fear