



THE KING & HIS KINGDOM

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Being a Fearless Witness in a Hostile World

Matthew 10:16–31

What is keeping you from being a courageous witness?

Would you be willing to die defending your faith?

Christ sends us into a hostile world to see with his eyes, live with his faith, and proclaim his gospel.

Six commands for ordinary ambassadors being sent into a hostile world

1. We must see with Christ's eyes to recognize those with evil intentions (v.16).
2. We must depend on Christ's wisdom to witness with discernment and innocence (v.16).
3. We must rely on Christ's awareness when we face opposition (vv.17–20).

Six commands for ordinary ambassadors being sent into a hostile world

4. We must follow Christ's guidance, trusting Him to direct our steps (vv. 21–25).
5. We must rest in Christ's faithfulness so we will fear people hostile to our message (vv. 26, 28–31).
6. We must proclaim Christ's truth to bring the light of the gospel into the darkness of sin (v. 27).

1. We must see with Christ's eyes to recognize those with evil intentions (Matthew 10:16)

“Look, I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves.

Four Kinds of Sheep

- 1) Lost sheep who have yet to come to saving faith in Jesus
- 2) Wandering sheep who do not have a church home
- 3) Starving sheep who are not being fed and cared for
- 4) Healthy sheep whom shepherds tend in a healthy church

2. We must depend on Christ's wisdom to witness with discernment and innocence (Matthew 10:16)

Therefore be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves.

2. We must depend on Christ's wisdom to witness with discernment and innocence (Matthew 10:16)

A sensible or shrewd person sees danger and takes cover,
but the inexperienced keep going and are punished.

Proverbs 22:3

The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the perversity of the treacherous destroys them.

Proverbs 11:3

2. We must depend on Christ's wisdom to witness with discernment and innocence (Matthew 10:16)

“Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I blaspheme my King who saved me?”

--Polycarp

“There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still.”

--Corrie ten Boom

3. We must rely on Christ's awareness when we face opposition (Matthew 10:17–20).

17 Beware of them, because they will hand you over to local courts and flog you in their synagogues. 18 You will even be brought before governors and kings because of me, to bear witness to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they hand you over, don't worry about how or what you are to speak. For you will be given what to say at that hour, 20 because it isn't you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is speaking through you.

4. We must follow Christ's guidance, trusting Him to direct our steps and open doors (Matthew 10:21–25).

21 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.

22 You will be hated by everyone because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. For truly I tell you, you will not have gone through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

4. We must follow Christ's guidance, trusting Him to direct our steps and open doors (Matthew 10:21–25).

24 A disciple is not above his teacher, or a slave above his master.

25 It is enough for a disciple to become like his teacher and a slave like his master. If they called the head of the house 'Beelzebul,' how much more the members of his household!

5. We must rest in Christ's faithfulness so we will not fear people hostile to our message (Matthew 10:26, 28–31).

26 “Therefore, don't be afraid of them, since there is nothing covered that won't be uncovered and nothing hidden that won't be made known.

5. We must rest in Christ's faithfulness so we will not fear people hostile to our message (Matthew 10:26, 28–31).

28 Don't fear those who kill the body but are not able to kill the soul; rather, fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent. 30 But even the hairs of your head have all been counted. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

6. We must proclaim Christ's truth to bring the light of the gospel into darkness of sin (Matthew 10:27).

27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light. What you hear in a whisper, proclaim on the housetops.

Christ sends us into a hostile world to see with his eyes, live with his faith, and proclaim his gospel.

1. Rely on the Holy Spirit, not your own strength
2. Embrace the cost of discipleship
3. Replace fear of man with faith in God