

HOW SHEEP OUGHT TO BEHAVE IN WOLF COUNTRY MATTHEW 10

Text: Matthew 10:16

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¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Introduction:

Christ knew the conditions a Christian would face in this world. He also knew and wanted them to know how to face it. He used terms they understood to describe it.

Back when these instructions were given sheep were common to almost everyone. The youngest boy in the family was usually the shepherd, whose sole responsibility was to protect the sheep at any cost, sometimes even at the expense of his own life.

So for the most part everyone knew and understood not only the work that was involved in keeping sheep, but also the importance of protecting them.

Let's notice:

1. THE NATURE OF SHEEP ENDANGERS THEM

- A. Sheep are timid and defenseless.
- B. They are easily frightened.
- C. They like to wander away from the flock.

(Isa 53:6 KJV) "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

2. THE LOCATION OF THE SHEEP ENDANGER THEM

- A. Compare sheep to wolves
 - 1. Wolves are cunning, strong, and swift.
 - 2. Wolves are deadly killers.
 - 3. Wolves run in packs to kill.
 - 4. Wolves do not kill just to satisfy hunger. They often kill for the sport of it.

3. BE WISE AS SERPENTS - JESUS' FIRST ADVICE TO THE SHEEP

A. In use of ears

1. A serpent is deaf to sound carried by air.
2. A snake heeds sound (vibrations) from the ground.

B. In the use of our eyes.

1. A snake's eyes are always open, even when he is asleep.

4. BE HARMLESS AS DOVES - JESUS' FINAL ADVICE TO HIS DISCIPLES.

A. A dove is not out to pick a fight with other birds.

B. A Dove does not live from the good crop raised by others.

C. A dove does not break up other homes.

D. A dove is not interested in settling down in wolf country.

Close:

Let's heed the advice of the Lord's instruction and be very aware of our enemy.

(Mat 10:16 KJV) "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."

(Luke 10:3 KJV) "Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."

(Rom 16:19 KJV) "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."