



Sermon Notes: "Like Sheep Among Wolves"

Matthew 10:16-23

2.15.26

SENT ON PURPOSE INTO DANGER (vv. 16a, 17-18)

- Opposition isn't the interruption of the mission, it's the expansion of it.
- Following Jesus doesn't guarantee safety, it guarantees significance.

SENT WITH A STRATEGY (v. 16b)

- Courage without wisdom is reckless. Wisdom without purity is manipulation. Jesus calls us to both.

SENT WITH A VOICE AND AN URGENT CALL (vv. 19-23)

How Do We Know It's the Spirit Speaking?

1. Are we speaking Scripture or our own wisdom?
2. Does it point to Jesus or to us?
3. Does it produce fruit or heat?

- The Holy Spirit doesn't need your ability, He needs your availability.
- Jesus is giving them permission to be strategically wise. Courage doesn't mean stupidity.

So What?

1. **The courage to let God use your pain.**
2. **The courage to surrender your words to the Holy Spirit.**

Memorizing Challenge:

Ephesians 2:8-9_{NLT} — "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."

3. **The courage to endure when it costs you something.**

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Have you ever had to do something that scared you but you knew it was the right thing? What gave you the courage to go through with it?

REVIEW:

Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 10:16-18

- Jesus said “I am sending you out as sheep among wolves.” He didn’t say “you might encounter wolves.” He said “I’m sending you INTO them.” Why does it matter that Jesus sends us into difficulty on purpose rather than us just stumbling into it?
- Think about a recent cultural or relational conversation that felt tense — gender, politics, faith questions, social media debates. How would the “wise as snakes, innocent as doves” approach change how you engage?
- Jesus said their suffering would be their “opportunity” to testify. How does that reframe change the way you think about a difficult season you’ve been through? Is there something painful in your past that God might want to use as a platform?

READ: Matthew 10:19-20

- Jesus said “don’t worry about what to say — the Spirit of your Father will speak through you.” Have you ever had a moment where words came out of your mouth and you thought “Where did THAT come from?” Share that with the group.
- Darin gave four markers for knowing it’s the Spirit speaking: (1) it’s rooted in Scripture, (2) it points to Jesus not us, (3) it produces fruit not heat, and (4) it surprises you. Which of these is the most helpful for you right now? Why?

DEPLOY:

1. **Memorize the Gospel** — Start memorizing Ephesians 2:8-9. Write it on a notecard. Put it on your mirror. Say it out loud every morning. Give the Spirit something to work with.
2. **Identify Your “Microphone”** — What painful experience in your life could God use as a testimony? A struggle, a loss, a season of doubt? Ask God: “Will you use this for someone else’s good?”

Don't Forget:

- **Go LOVE Team Training** — 2 Kingdoms legalistic Training. All-church Sunday School next week!
- **Ladies Movie Night:** Feb 26th @ 6:30 (*tentatively: The Forge*)
- **Mexico Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner:** Was on Feb 14th. Consider supporting financially and pray for the team!

Prayer:

Father,

Thank You that You don’t send us into danger unprepared. You’ve given us a strategy, a voice, and a Spirit that speaks when we can’t find the words.

Forgive us for the times we’ve stayed silent when You were asking us to speak. Forgive us for the times we’ve been reckless when You were calling us to be wise.

Give us courage. Help us see our pain as a platform, our weakness as an invitation.

Remind us of Your Word when the moment comes. Fill our mouths with Your truth. And give us the endurance to keep going conversation after conversation.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.