

# Wise as Serpents and Harmless as Doves

Matthew 10:16-23

(series #62)

**Intro:** the scope of this section goes to the end times

- 1) Jesus discusses future persecution
- 2) Ministry to Gentiles (v. 18), not just Jews (v. 5)
- 3) The Holy Spirit had not been given
- 4) Verse 23 speaks about the Lord's return

## I. The Exhortation to Wisdom & Innocence v. 16

A. Be wise or shrewd as serpents

B. Be harmless as doves - 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:22-25

1. Pride, desire for power, jealousy, self-assertiveness, an argumentative spirit
2. Paul's example of humility  
Rom. 7:18, 1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 1:15, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:10

## II. The Warning about Persecution vv. 17-23

A. Be wise - "Beware of men" v. 17a

B. Be prepared - persecution will come v. 17ff

1. It gives opportunity for witness v. 18b
  - a. Paul's experience in Acts 22-28
  - b. Paul's experience in Phil. 1:12-14
2. The Spirit will guide you vv. 19-20
  - a. Not a contradiction of 2 Tim. 2:15
  - b. A promise for a specific situation
3. It will be worse in the end vv. 21-23

**Conclusion:** Serving the Lord isn't easy, but it's worth it

1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 15:58; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 6:10