

Wise as Serpents Innocent as Doves

Matthew 10:16-33

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- Perseverance in the face of persecution (16-25)
- Faithful witness in the face of fear (26-33)

Perseverance in the face of persecution

- We will be vulnerable to vicious attacks (16)
 - So consider the future and act blamelessly
- You may be sold out by others and punished (17-20)
 - Bear witness publically and don't be nervous
 - The Spirit will help you and lead you as you testify
- The news about Jesus will even divide families (21-23)
 - Persevere even through hatred
 - The task is urgent and ultimate
- Realize that they treated Jesus the same way (24-26)

Faithful witness in the face of fear

- Truth is on your side so be confident (26-27)
 - Proclaim the truth clearly and publically
- Offending God is scarier than offending men (28)
 - So don't fear mere men more than God
- Fear not! Because...(29-31)
 - God knows you, loves you as his child, and values you
- Use your mouth now or be silenced later (32-33)
 - Advocate = one who publically confesses support