

## Matthew 10:16-42 **Sheep Among Wolves / Great Tribulation Hazards**

### Hazards of Ministry

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

### Holy Spirit speaks in you

19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

### Family Betrayal

21 Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

### Short time till Son of Man comes

23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

### If they persecuted Jesus, they will persecute you

24 A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

### All Secrets will be Revealed

26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

### Preach boldly, you are more valuable than many sparrows

27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

### Whoever confesses Me here, I will confess in Heaven

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

### Be willing to loose your mortal life to find Eternal Life

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' 37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter

more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

### Rewards for receptiveness toward the Gospel and Ministries

<sup>40</sup> "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. <sup>42</sup> And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Hazards of Ministry

- ✠ The hazards Jesus warned against as He sent the twelve out to minister the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven, clearly applied for their time, but the same warnings apply at the end of time as the Great Tribulation comes upon the world.
- ✠ These are included in the warnings of the time just before the end of the age and the return of Jesus, as given in the descriptions of the signs that signal His coming. [Matthew 24:9-14, Mark 13:9-13, Luke 21:12-19, 2 Timothy 3:12-14]
  - ✧ Sent out as Sheep among Wolves. [Matthew 10:16]
  - ✧ Therefore, be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. [Matthew 10:16]
    - ❖ Our defense will be found in the gift of wisdom given by the Holy Spirit. [Exodus 28:3, 31:3, 35:31, Deuteronomy 34:9, Isaiah 11:1-2, Acts 6:3, 10, 1 Corinthians 12:8, Ephesians 1:17]
    - ❖ Not by force of arms, Be Harmless as Doves.
  - ✧ Beware of men, for they will deliver you up to the councils for trial and destruction. [Matthew 10:17, 24:9, Mark 13:9, Luke 21:12]
    - ❖ You will be scourged in their synagogues.
  - ✧ You will be brought before governors and kings for the sake of Christ. [Matthew 10:18, Mark 13:9, Luke 21:12-13]
    - ❖ This will provide an opportunity to be used as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.
    - ❖ A good example of this is the trial of Paul before Festus and King Agrippa. [Acts 25:1-27]

### Holy Spirit speaks in you

- ✠ The statement is not "If," but "When," they deliver you up. [Matthew 10:19]
  - ✧ This indicates the certainty that the Saint of God will face persecution, and especially in the last days. [Matthew 24:9, Mark 13:9, Luke 21:12-13, 2 Timothy 3:12]
- ✠ The command is, "Do not worry about how or what you should speak." [Matthew 10:19, Mark 13:11, Luke 21:14-15]
  - ✧ Jesus does not want us to plan out or rehearse our a testimony beforehand, but to depend on the Holy Spirit to give us the proper words to share as we are given the opportunity.
  - ✧ The Spirit of your Father is the One Who speaks in you. [Matthew 10:20, Mark 13:11, Luke 21:14-15]

### Family Betrayal

- ✠ The worst persecution will come from within the family, as family members report on each other to the authorities to cause them to be put to death. [Matthew 10:21, Mark 13:12, Luke 21:16]
  - ✧ Due to present abusiveness that takes place in so many homes today, the children in public schools are being instructed to report on their parents, or others, when they feel abused.
  - ✧ That sets the stage for the fulfillment of this prophecy when the authorities are set to the destruction of Christians.

- ✧ Even today the Christians are accused of being the cause of World Terrorism of many forms, because of their lack of acceptance of doctrines of other religions, which has been labeled as intolerant bigotry.
- ✧ The New World Order is being promoted to cause all religions to accept the doctrines of all other religions, so the Christian is expected to view Hinduism, Buddhism, Muslim, and all native religions and cultures as equally valid as their own.
  - ❖ The fantasy, is thinking that if all religions valued all other religious concepts as valid as their own, the resulting tolerance would bring world peace.
  - ❖ This thinking does away of the knowledge of right and wrong, and puts everything on a relative basis, which denies the fact that there is a real truth and error.
  - ❖ Everything in that view is subject to the whim of the individual, and denies that the Creator of all things has revealed to mankind what is right and acceptable, or wrong and unacceptable.
  - ❖ This is the view of the Humanists, who exalt the thinking of man, above the revelations of God Most High, thinking that the knowledge of God is obsolete.

✠ You will be hated by all for My Name's sake. [Matthew 10:22, Mark 13:13, Luke 21:17]

### Salvation Depends on Your Steadfast Choice

- ✠ He that endures to the end will be saved. [Matthew 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13, Luke 21:19, Revelation 13:10, 14:12]
- ✧ In the end, it will be proven, that God not only exists, but that He knew far in advance, and revealed, all the things mankind would come up with, in his attempt to do away with the knowledge of God.
- ✧ Each person will certainly answer to God Himself, for the choices he has made concerning the Scriptures delivered through the prophets and writers God has sent. [Romans 14:10-12, Matthew 10:5-15, Luke 10:16, Luke 9:23-26]
- ✧ All illustrations of the Kingdom of Heaven, as well as all teachings concerning the day of Judgment, call us to a life fully committed to God and godliness to the end.

### Short time till Son of Man comes

- ✠ When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. [Matthew 10:23]
- ✧ This is the same concept as in "This generation will not pass away until all is fulfilled." [Matthew 24:34, Mark 13:30, Luke 21:32]

### If they persecuted Jesus, they will persecute you

- ✠ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, not above him. [Matthew 10:24-25, Luke 6:40]
- ✠ If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

### All Secrets will be Revealed

- ✠ There is nothing covered or hidden, that will not come to light. [Matthew 10:26]
- ✧ At the Judgment Seat of Christ, all will be revealed and called for accounting. [Matthew 12:36, Romans 2:16, 14:10-12, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 4:13, 1 Peter 4:5]
- ✧ Each person will certainly answer to God Himself, for everything he has done as well as for every choice he has made. [Romans 14:10-12, Matthew 10:5-15, Luke 10:16, Luke 9:23-26]
- ✧ Knowing this truth, we can rest in the assurance that God is able to settle all accounts with divine justice at the proper time.
- ✧ Knowing this, will also help us to preach the truth of the Word of God with boldness

### Preach boldly, you are more valuable than many sparrows

- ✠ Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. [Matthew 10:27]

- ✠ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. [Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:4-5]
- ✧ Do not fear mankind, but fear God.
- ✧ Hell is so terrible, that to risk going there just to save your life is beyond intelligent consideration. [Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9, Mark 9:43-48, Luke 16:19-31]
- ✧ This is the choice you will be forced to make during the Great Tribulation when the Antichrist and False prophet come on the scene and demand that you take the “Mark of the Beast” to save your life, but the end result is that you will seal your fate to the Lake of fire if you capitulate. [Revelation 13:11-18, 14:9-11, 19:20, 20:4]
- ✠ God knows if one sparrow falls to the ground. [Matthew 10:29, Luke 12:6]
- ✠ God values each human being as of much greater value than many sparrows. [Matthew 10:30-31, Luke 12: 7]
- ✧ The very hairs of your head are numbered. [Matthew 10:30, Luke 12:7]

### Whoever confesses Me here, I will confess in Heaven

- ✠ Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. [Matthew 10:32, Luke 12:8]
- ✠ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. [Matthew 10:33, Luke 12:9]
- ✠ It is important to openly acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior while we are on this earth, because our destiny is at stake. It will impact the results of our judgment on the day of judgment.

### Be willing to loose your mortal life to find Eternal Life

- ✠ Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. [Matthew 10:34, Luke 12:51]
- ✧ Jesus is the Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 9:6]
- ✧ The Kingdom age will be an age of Universal Peace for all mankind and animal alike. [Isaiah 2:4, 11:6-9, 65:18-25, Hosea 2:18]
- ✧ However, when He came the first time to settle the sin problem and establish the Church, He introduced a time of testing and division between the Saints and the Sinners.
- ✧ Everyone is required to make a choice, to believe, or to disbelieve, obey or disobey.
- ✧ This will cause great tension and resentment even among family members.
- ✧ As stated before, the division will even be among family members. [Matthew 10:21, 35-36, 24:9-10, 35-36, Mark 13:12-13a, Luke 21:16-17]
- ✧ For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household. [Matthew 10:35-36, Luke 12:52-53]
- ✠ In the end we will be required to choose between Christ or family members.
- ✧ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. [Matthew 10:37, Luke 14:26]
- ✧ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. [Matthew 10:38, 16:24, Mark 8:34, 10:21, Luke 9:23]
  - ❖ Every day of our lives, we are called to make choices for or against the teachings of Jesus. It comes in every conceivable form of life choices, and temptations.
- ✠ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. [Matthew 10:39, 16:25, Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24, 17:33]
- ✧ This is the choice you will be forced to make during the Great Tribulation when the Antichrist and False prophet come on the scene and demand that you take the “Mark of the Beast” to save your life, but the end result is that you will seal your fate to the Lake of fire if you capitulate. [Revelation 13:11-18, 14:9-11, 19:20, 20:4]

## Rewards for receptiveness toward the Gospel and Ministries

- ✠ He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.  
[Matthew 10:40]
  - ✧ Everyone will be judged by their receptiveness to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and His messengers.
- ✠ He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. [Matthew 10:41]
  - ✧ Everyone will be judged by their receptiveness to a prophet and a righteous person.
  - ✧ This calls for discernment between the true prophet and the false prophet.
  - ✧ It also calls for discernment of one who is truly righteous, or a hypocrite.
- ✠ And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward. [Matthew 10:42]
  - ✧ Whoever does the works of a godly person, will certainly receive his reward.