

- iii. “Whoever finds their life... figures out a way to live the Christian life in a way that is completely acceptable to the world... will lose it! But whoever loses their life because of their loyalty to me, will find it!”

C. Jesus wants us to put our hope in God!

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid
to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What picture comes to mind when you think of sheep being sent into a pack of wolves?
- What do you think is meant by saying that Jesus implemented a strategy of weakness? How might this be seen here?
- How does this strategy of weakness conform to the ways of God in the world throughout Scripture?
- At this point in Matthew’s gospel, what should define “wisdom” for the disciples? Why is holding onto that wisdom necessary for being innocent as doves?
- What ideas come to mind when you think of sheep or doves (v16)? How do these speak to the wisdom we need to cling to?
- Do you think the disciples would have been surprised to hear Jesus say that He did not come to bring peace but a sword? Explain.
- Discuss the Chrysostom quote (see outline).
- What are you willing to die for? What are you willing to kill for? How do your answers line-up with what Jesus teaches here and in Matthew’s Gospel?
- What spoke to you the most from this message and text?

DISCIPLE 1.0 Adjusting Missional Expectations

Jerry Cisar — August 11, 2019

Text: Matthew 10:16-42

Introduction

I. Food for Wolves (16-23)

A. Like Sheep Among Wolves

- i. *Sheep are to wolves what a nice filet mignon is to a carnivore.*

ii. This is a strategy of weakness.

a) A strategy of weakness fits the OT prophecy (Daniel 7)

b) Paul also exhibits this strategy of weakness:

➤ 1 Corinthians 2:3

➤ 2 Corinthians 11:30

➤ 2 Corinthians 12:9

c) It is the strategy of the cross!

➤ 1 Corinthians 1:25

B. Wise as Serpents; Innocent as Doves

i. The Imagery of *Serpents*

- a) Serpents were symbolic of *wisdom*, or *cunning*.
- b) Serpens were symbolic of healing, life-giving power.
- c) Matthew 7:24

ii. The Imagery of Doves

F. D. Bruner: “Doves are in the bird-world what sheep are in the world of beasts—peaceful, harmless, nonviolent, simple.”

II. Follow the Leader (24-33)

A. “Who do you think you are?”

- i. Matthew 5:11-12

ii. This might also bring fear.

B. Don't fear...

- i. Don't fear what they do in secret.
- ii. Don't fear what you have to say boldly and publicly.
- iii. Don't fear those who can kill the body but not the soul.
- iv. Don't be afraid, you're worth more than two sparrows.

John Chrysostom (Homily XXXIV): “If then [the Father] is not ignorant of anything that befalls us, and loves us more truly than a father, and so loves us, as to have numbered our very hairs; we ought not to be afraid. And this He said... that He might indicate His perfect knowledge, and His great providence over them. If therefore He both knows all the things that are done, and is able to save you, and willing; whatever ye may have to suffer, *think not that as persons forsaken ye suffer*. For neither is it His will to deliver you from the terrors, but to persuade you to despise them, since *this is, more than anything, deliverance from the terrors.*”

C. The Motivation

Deitrich Bonhoeffer, commenting on our text asks: “*What has this community been promised?* The Lord Jesus has promised that it will have to suffer persecution and the cross in discipleship to him. But he also promised it the perfect blessedness of fellowship and eternal victory.”

F. D. Bruner: “It is interesting that Jesus has inserted his treatment of the doctrine of providence into the middle of a Sermon on Mission. For it is those who do his work of mission who most need this doctrine. They need to know that the Father who lets them get in trouble, who lets them get arrested, and who, in a word, *backs* disciples into a mission filled with trouble and persecution, is not, contrary to all appearances, a weak God.”

III. Families aren't Forever (34-42)

A. Abuses of the Verse

B. What does it say?

- i. Purpose or Result?

ii. The Micah quotation makes it clear that Jesus means *result*.