

LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
SERMON OUTLINE
January 24th, 2021
Matthew 10:16

RECAP: The disciples are charged to be content where they are placed, not create needless drama, and understand the seriousness of the sin of rejecting the Gospel of Christ.

THESIS: To deal with violent wolves in the world, we will need careful thinking, and total innocence.

EXEGESIS: Matthew 10:16 (*see also Matt. 5:10-12; Matthew 24:4-14; Mark 13:9.*)

- **“Sheep.”** Sheep are the common reference to God’s people, the church, as dependent, helpless creatures, in constant need of support, and in this case, no match for worldly wolves.
- **“Wolves.”** This contrast Christ implies here is that in worldly terms, we’re very outgunned, not physically, but by the hatred, violence, rage and selfish destruction wolves will use against us.
- The unfortunate fact is that we will anger the wolves into harming us. The Gospel is not “nice,” but is offensive and hated by sinners. While this may not be every case, inevitably, the flesh will fight back.
- **“Shrewd as serpents.”** References **Gen. 3:1**. This Greek word means “clever, crafty, thought out ahead, etc.” Found several times, both negative and positive. **Matt 7:24; Luke 16:8.**
 - This implies we are called to use the tool of preparation and foresight in planning against bad, hostile, hateful situations.
- **“Innocent as doves.”** This word is translated either “harmless” or “innocent.” The Greek term literally means “unmixed, untainted.” Found only here and two other places; **Rom. 16:19, Phil. 2:5.**
 - We are to be “harmless” inasmuch as we have no hidden agenda, and “innocent” inasmuch as we are totally above reproach, with no double-minded plan to fool.
 - *Objection:* This text is not a call to pacifism, even though the church benefits greatly from the selfless martyr demonstrations of it’s people on many occasions.

CONCLUSION:

- **Be thoughtful and use foresight in preaching the Gospel. Don’t unnecessarily create hostility, danger, or walk into situations without good reason and preparedness.**
- Be absolutely above any reproach or accusations. They will accuse us of double motives, lies, and manipulation. Prove them wrong with innocence.