

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 10:16 “Behold, [ἰδοὺ – IDOU – Behold or see] . . .

This is the point at which the Lord begins to issue instructions - - some of those instructions were applicable to the disciples’ 1st mission.

Other instructions would not apply until after the Resurrection.

. . . I send you out as **sheep** in the midst of wolves;

Characteristics of a sheep –

- A sheep is innocent, honest.
- The disciples are not to be deceitful.
- They are to speak the truth in love - yet they are being sent out in the midst of ravenous wolves.
 - Wolves do not receive sheep very well.
 - They do not listen to their pleas – they devour sheep.
 - Wolves here are a reference to the religious leaders – the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
 - Jewish religious leaders and those in the future who would persecute them for their association with Christ
 - They are wolves who have rejected the King and His message.
 - They are plotting to destroy Him.

. . . so be **shrewd** as serpents and innocent as doves.

- **Shrewd** – φρόνιμος – PHRONIMOS - wise or prudent – alert!
- The disciples are to be wise and prudent – yet not deceptive – when they encounter those who would persecute them.
- When possible they should quietly slither away like a snake.
- Yet if delivered into their hands the Lord requires them to face the persecution like a dove and maintain the purest of intentions.

Future Warning and Prophecy which will be fulfilled after the Lord’s resurrection and ascension

¹⁷“But beware of men, for they will hand you over. . .

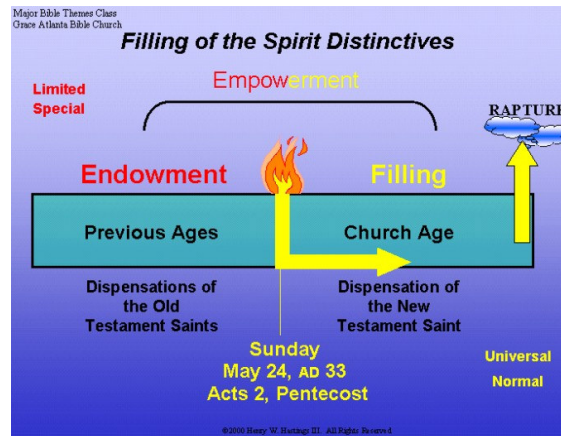
- παραδίδωμι – PARA DIDOMI – Hand over or deliver over
- The Lord is prophesying here.

- He's telling the disciples that they will be handed over in the future - fulfilled after His Ascension.

... to the courts

- **συνέδριον** – *The high court* - Predominately a reference to the Sanhedrin.
- Sanhedrin was the supreme court of Israel composed of High Priests and Pharisees.

Example: Peter and John were arrested in **Acts 4:1 ff.**



Acts 4:1-12 As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, ² being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. ⁵ On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; ⁶ and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. ⁷ When they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what power, or in what name, have you done this?" ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people, ⁹ if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health. ¹¹ He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Compare Acts 4:8 with Matt. 10:19-20.

Matthew 10:19-20 "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

¹⁷ "But beware of men, for they will hand you over to the courts (**συνέδριον**)

- **συνέδριον** is in the plural which leads me to believe this has application all the way through the Tribulation.
- The disciples would be scourged.

... in their synagogues;

- Jewish places of worship

- In **Acts 16:19-24**, Paul and Silas were handed over to the Chief Magistrates, beaten with rods, and imprisoned.

¹⁸ and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a **testimony** to them and to the Gentiles.

- **Testimony** – μαρτύριον - **MARTURION** - *something that serves as a witness; proof*
- Paul was brought before King Agrippa in **Acts 25:23-26:32**.

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Vv. 21-22 have special reference to the Tribulation.

Matthew 10:21-22 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. ²² You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be **saved**.”

- This “salvation” is not the fact of being saved from the penalty of sin.
- **Saved** - σώζω – **SOZO** – *to save; to deliver*

Perfect tense of salvation – were saved from the penalty of sin

Romans 6:23
Matthew 25:41

Present tense of salvation – being saved from the power of sin in your life

Galatians 5:18

Future tense of salvation – will be saved from the presence of sin in your life

Saved from danger!

There are two ways in which someone can be delivered from danger [*persecution*].

- 1 - Escape it physically – be delivered from it.
 - Paul & Silas - **Acts 16**
 - Peter - **Acts 12:4-19**
- 2 - Physical death
 - **Acts 7:54-60**
 - In the middle of being stoned, the Lord delivered him [Stephen].

²³ “But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next;

Principle – There is never a reason to argue with someone about Christ.

... for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

- Specific reference to the disciples’ ministry to the nation prior to the nation being judged.
- Coming of the Son of Man was considered to be a day of judgment.
- The disciples would not finish going through the cities of Israel before the destruction of Jerusalem & the temple in 70 AD.

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

They are to expect to endure what He has and will endure!

²⁵ “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!

Believers are going to be maligned and falsely accused.

²⁶ “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear in ear, proclaim upon the housetops.”

Communicate doctrine with boldness.

Don't be timid.

POD: The Word of God should be communicated with authority in public (from the pulpit or lectern).

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.