

# The Gospel According to Luke- Part 3

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## SENDING THE 12

## PART 10

*Wise as Serpents, Harmless as Doves*

**READ MATTHEW 10:16-26**

### INTRODUCTION

*It is telling that Christ knew what He was sending His disciples into when He sent them out. He knew that they would encounter people who would persecute them and that would kill them. This first sending did not see any of the disciples die but, all of them (except for John) were, at some point, martyred for their association with and their preaching of Christ. While this is not something that we see often in the western world, it is certainly still happening today and it is something that we should be prepared for either way.*

*Jesus is concerned for our spiritual wellbeing and that means that we are to be wise as serpents. This means that we should be aware of other worldviews and false teachings. We are to study the Word of God so that we may identify those who would try and destroy us or misguide us. There is more to this than a passive faith that waits for maturity to happen across our paths. We are to actively pursue the things of God and that takes work. We must read, study, learn and follow the commands of the Father found in Scripture so that we may have a better relationship with Christ. The goal is to know Him more.*

*Being spiritually sound also means to be harmless as doves. (Some translations say, "innocent as doves") This is a reference to how we are to act towards the world around us. We are not to be as a serpent that bites to kill. Doves were used as sacrifices in Scripture. (Leviticus 14:22) Jesus showed that He was as harmless as a dove in every circumstance. He lived a pure and holy life (Hebrews 4:15), He acted in compassion (Matthew 9:36), and He challenged anyone to find fault in Him (John 8:46; 18:23). Three times, Pilate judged Jesus to be an innocent man (John 18:38; 19:4, 6). As we take the gospel to a hostile world, we must be wise (avoiding the snares set for us), and we must be innocent (serving the Lord blamelessly).*

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

1. What emotions come up when we think about Jesus knowing that His disciples would be persecuted? Was it fair of Him to expect such devotion? Why or why not?
2. Does the persecution referenced for the disciples have any carryover for us as Christians (disciples) today? Should we run from persecution or should we fight it?
3. What does it take to be aware of other worldviews? What is the best way, in your opinion, to look at and examine other worldviews? How can we use that knowledge to our advantage as believers?
4. Why do you think Jesus wants us to be innocent as doves? How can you be wise and innocent at the same time? Read some of the referenced verses above. How did Jesus show that He was innocent like a dove?
5. What does it mean to serve the Lord blamelessly? How can we help each other do that? Why must we be that in this world?

### *WRAP UP*

It is a sad thing to see a Christian who does not know what it means to be wise and innocent. Too many people in our world choose one characteristic or the other. People get angry and attack others or they are naive to the wolves that are around us. We must strive to exemplify what it looks like to study and be wise and yet, live innocently and in servitude to God our Father. When we do this, we start to look more like Jesus.