

Matthew 10:16-33
To Confess Christ Before Men

I. Sheep in the midst of wolves.

- A. Warning: I am sending you out as...[Acts 20:29; 1Cor 14:20; Eph 5:15; Phil 2:15]
- B. Beware of men. [Acts 27:24]
- C. Do not worry for words. [Prov 16:1; Isaiah 54:17]
- D. The Spirit of you Father is with you in the labors of the harvest. [John 17:11]

II. A disciple is not above his teacher.

- A. Warning: they called your master Beelzebub.
- B. Do not worry about their lies. [Micah 7:6]
- C. Flee their persecution; I will come to deal with them.
- D. Preach the word I have given you. [Isaiah 40:9]

III. Do not fear them.

- A. Beware of men but do not fear men.
- B. Men can only kill the body.
- C. God cares especially for you, his servants. [Phil 1:21]
- D. Preach publicly and boldly.

IV. Confess Christ openly.

- A. Your confession today has consequences in eternity.
- B. Your fear and faithlessness today have consequences in eternity. [Matt 7:22-23; John 21:17; 2Cor 12:9]
- C. God's Spirit, God's providential care, God's word, God's Son all work together in his harvest with his laborers.
- D. Do not fear to confess Christ before men.
 - 1. When you serve Christ openly in the world, anticipate that you may be harassed and persecuted.
 - 2. If you are persecuted, do not panic. Be wise, be harmless, try to leave.
 - 3. If you cannot flee and you are put to the test, don't worry.
 - 4. When you encounter intimidating people, do not be afraid of them.
 - 5. In every situation when you live and work as a witness to Christ, remember that God extends his fatherly care to shield you from ultimate evil.
 - 6. Confess Christ before men; you share holy fellowship with Christ and with the Father.