

**Sermon Outline**  
“The Hardship of Obedience”  
Matthew 10:16-23

*It is written: I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. — Matthew 26:31*

- I.** The central point of the pericope:  
**Following Jesus** – and proclaiming his Lordship – **will be attended by hardship.**  
The setting is the final offer to Israel which shall end in AD 70 (vv. 5-6).
- II.** Two metaphorical statements v. 16
- a. Their condition: You are sheep among wolves (note shift – 9:36; 10:5)  
*Cf. 23:27-28; 34-36 (see 26:31; Zech 13:7).*
- b. Their deportment: Be wise as serpents; innocent as doves  
The serpent is crafty Gen 3:1  
Doves are a symbol of virtue. They are without bile.  
*See Rom 16:19.*
- III.** Be wary of men vv. 17-18 (picks up theme of v. 14)
- a. They will deliver you to councils (Jewish leaders) Acts 5:27; 6:12.  
They will punish you in the synagogues Acts 22:19; II Cor 11:23-25.
- b. They will drag you before governors and kings (Gentile leaders) Acts 24:16.
- IV.** Do not be fearful vv. 19-20 (picks up theme of vv. 9-10)
- The Spirit of your Father shall speak through you (*cf. Ex 4:12; see Acts 4:8*)
- V.** The natural family divided in allegiance v. 21 (brother vs. brother)  
The members of their own families shall betray them to death.  
*Cf. Mt 10:34-37; 19:29.*
- A** Father  
**B** Child  
**B<sup>1</sup>** Children  
**A<sup>1</sup>** Parents
- VI.** The steadfast shall be delivered vv. 22-23  
Persevering despite the hatred of all men v. 22  
*Zech 13:9; Mt 25:31-35; 10:41-42.*
- Flee from each town that rejects the message v. 23a (*cf. v. 14*)  
*Cf. Jesus: Lk 4:30; Jn 8:59.*
- Safe refuge shall not be exhausted before the judgment v. 23b  
*Cf. Dan 7:13-14; Mt 24:1-2, 27, 30, 34; 16:27-28.*