

5/11/22

AH

35

FB 14

**Sermon – Wise as Serpents – week 1**

**Scripture – Mathew 10:1-23, Gen 3:1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:1-3**

**Main Message: The world is indeed full of wolves and Christians must be wise and filled with the Holy Spirit to thrive.**

We all know that wisdom is of great importance. And in our own minds, most of us think ourselves wise. Just being here today makes that very statement true. You are here knowing the God is real and have taken a vital step towards gaining wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. One thing that Jesus taught was that in this world we must be as wise as serpents in order to thrive in the world. I've always wondered about that statement and honestly, I never really liked the correlation with serpents because of how often it is used negatively in the Bible. However, the statement demonstrates that to withstand the craftiness of the enemy, we must also be careful and wise.

Let me read to you from Mathew 10 what will be the basis of this series, "Wise as Serpents."

**Read Mathew 10:1-23**

**Expository Style** – *(vs1-15 take no money, rely on the spirit not the world and go with the barest of essentials. Search those who are worthy. Be at peace with those who are peaceful, but don't leave you spirit with them who are not peaceful. Don't waste your time with those who have no interest in listening. Some places will be judged later on by God so don't give it another thought. You are a temporal being so use your time judiciously.) (vs 16-23 Jesus warns them that where they are going is filled with danger and they must use skill and subtlety. Beware of men and in particular those who are in charge, but you will be given guidance when you need it. Expect betrayal, expect the unexpected and don't be lulled into carelessness. Depart quickly because many need to be visited.)*

So, who is the enemy? Who are these wolves? In the beginning we get the first sign of this treachery. **Read Genesis 3:1** – Yes Satan is subtle and sly and filled with lies and half truths in order to deceive others. Yes, the serpent is Satan as identified in Rev 20:2.

This enemy is still around in spirit and we are warned many times by Jesus as we have read but also by Paul. **Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 11:1-3**

People, even Christians are replacing the purity and absolute authority of Jesus for watered down, substituted, compromised beliefs that are justified by unholy means. Yes, just like Eve was beguiled, so are those that even Paul preached to: a church in Corinth. He was probably quite frustrated.

This is the purpose of this series. We must all pause, take stock of what we are doing, or believing for that matter, and ensure that we are focused on the purity of faith in Jesus Christ. We must be wise and not substitute our faith in Christ, especially by the things of man, which Jesus warned us about time and time again. This is called being wise.

Yet many ignore that warning, time and time again. This is the easiest of this series btw!