

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## Matthew 9:35-10:15

16 "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. 19 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. 20 For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death,

22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

## Study Guide 19 Dec 2010 – Being on God's Mission: Persecution and Allegiance



### Summary

Jesus has called His disciples to be on a mission – to do His work of saving the lost. This is no simple mission: we are being sent out as sheep among wolves. But the church, God's bride, we are an army.

Now the disciples had a message to proclaim and a power to demonstrate – the gospel. This gospel is a message of repentance and of God's kingdom rule. The king is returning and all rebels must repent and serve Him wholeheartedly.

The Pharisees thought that it would be works that commend them to God, but the kingdom is at odds with works. The authorities are given power by God, but they also at times oppose God's rule. Family loyalties also will be subject to the sovereignty of God.

This is not a license for controversy and rebellion. Facing such opposition, Jesus' disciples are called to be wise and innocent. We are to rely on the power of God for our defence. We are to endure all things as Jesus did. We are to focus on the mission.

We face all these things for the sake of the gospel because Jesus faced these things. What a blessing to be counted worthy of the sufferings of Christ! How small are the trials of years and decades on earth compared with unlimited joy and pleasure for all eternity.

### Key points

Our mission is simple – proclaim the gospel and demonstrate its power in all of life.

### Explanation

- >>What is the meaning of repentance?
- >>Give some examples of how we ought to react to opposition from religiosity, authority and family.
- >>Is a Christian in rebellion against the values of the world or in collaboration with them?

### Application

- >>Consider your own interactions with works-righteousness, authority and family. Are they founded in God's priorities or other priorities? Do we even know what God's priorities are for our lives?
- >>How can we support and encourage those who face opposition?

### Final thoughts

Before we can effectively do our mission, we must ourselves be completely changed and renewed by the truth of the gospel.