

Lambs Among Wolves

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Synopsis:

The Gospel of Jesus and the good news of the Kingdom of God is carried into the world by His obedient followers.

Objectives:

- I. Who is sent
- II. How we're sent
- III. What we do when sent

Introduction:



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Outline:

I. Who is sent

A. The imagery of the lamb An image of innocence and attraction

Isaiah 11:6 (NIV) — 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

B. An image of submissiveness and vulnerability

Jeremiah 11:19 (NIV) — 19 I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, “Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.”

C. An image of quiet suffering

Isaiah 53:7 (NIV) — 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

D. An image of sacrifice

Exodus 29:38 (NIV) — 38 “This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old.

II. How we're sent

A. Working so as not to be a burden

1 Thessalonians 2:8–9 (NIV) — 8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. **9** Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we

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worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

B. Facing hardship and danger

2 Corinthians 11:23–29 (NIV) — 23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **24** Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, **26** I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. **27** I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. **28** Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. **29** Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

C. Arrest and imprisonment:

Acts 5:18 (NIV) — 18 They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail.

Acts 20:23–24 (NIV) — 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. **24** However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

D. Flogging:

Acts 5:40 (NIV) — 40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

E. Stoning:

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Acts 7:58 (NIV) — 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 14:19 (NIV) — 19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

F. Physical attack:

Acts 9:29 (NIV) — 29 He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him.

Acts 21:30–31 (NIV) — 30 The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. **31** While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.

G. Opposition:

Acts 20:19 (NIV) — 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (NIV) — 2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition.

H. Concern for unbelievers:

Romans 9:1–2 (NIV) — 1 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—**2** I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.

Romans 10:1 (NIV) — 1 Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

III. What we do when sent

The Life Of Jesus

A 3 Year Ministry Changing the World Forever

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A. Announcing good news

Isaiah 52:7 (NIV) — 7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Luke 4:43 (NIV) — 43 But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.”

B. Proclaiming the gospel

Romans 15:16 (NIV) — 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:20–21 (NIV) — 20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. **21** Rather, as it is written: “Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.”

C. Testifying to the truth about Jesus Christ

Acts 10:42–43 (NIV) — 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

D. Calling people to believe in Jesus Christ

Romans 10:13–14 (NIV) — 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **14** How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

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Invitation:

Hear - Romans 10:17 (KJV 1900)

17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe - Hebrews 11:6 (KJV 1900)

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that *cometh* to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Repent - Acts 17:30 (KJV 1900)

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Confess - 1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV 1900)

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Be Baptized - Acts 22:16 (KJV 1900)

16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Remain Faithful - 1 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV 1900)

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

