

Mission Impossible-Part 2: "The Tribulation Saints"

Matthew 10:16-23

The Millennium—Rev. 20:4

The Tribulation—Dan. 9:26-27

The Rapture—1 Thess. 4:13-18

I. Jesus' Warning (v. 16a):

- a. **Behold** = *idou* (ἰδοὺ) = "marker of strong emphasis...to change a scene, to emphasize an idea, to call attention to a detail—"indeed, certainly"
 - i. Jesus is marking the shift between His Instructions to the Apostles and the Tribulation Saints
- b. Prophetic Telescoping: Scripture often groups future events that are actually separated by a great deal of time (cf. Isa. 61:1-2)
- c. This is no "pep-talk;" wolves are extremely dangerous (cf. Ezek. 2:3-6; Matt. 7:15; Luke 10:3; John. 10; Acts 20:29)
- d. Sheep are helpless and defenseless without THE Good Shepherd! (cf. Ps. 23)

II. Jesus' Instructions (vs. 16b-23):

- a. **Be S_____ & I_____**
 - i. Jesus wants us to use our God-given intelligence to be wise/shrewd stewards in a fallen world (cf. Luke 16:8ff; cf. Matt. 22:21; 1 Cor. 9:19-22; Col. 4:5)
 - ii. He also wants us to remain pure and unstained by the evil world we have been sent to minister to (cf. Luke 6:27; Rom. 12:1; 1 Cor. 4:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Thess. 2:3; 5:23; Titus 2:14; James 1:27; 1 Peter 1:16; 2:23)
 1. **innocent** = *akeraios* (ἀκέραιος) = "pertaining to being without a mixture of evil and hence to being pure—"untainted."
- b. **B_____ of Men**
 - i. Jesus' words are repeated in Mark's recording of the Olivet Discourse which is focused on the End Times (cf. Mark 13:9-13)
 - ii. This scene is very different from the Apostles' first mission trip; involving great suffering and death (cf. Rev. 6:9)

iii. Persecution will come from:

1. Religions (cf. Dan. 9:26-27)
 - a. **courts** = *synedrion* (συνέδριον) = Sanhedrin
 - b. **scourge** = 40 lashes minus 1 (cf. 2 Cor. 11:24; Deut. 25:1-3; Acts 5:40; 9:1-2; Gal. 6:17)
2. Government (cf. Rev. 13:5-7)

iv. God will still use the Saints suffering as **a testimony to them and to the Gentiles** (cf. Matt. 5:10-11; 24:25; John 16:1-4; Acts 4:1-22; 5:17-41; 6:12-8:3; 12:1-19; 16:19-40; 21:27-28:31; 2 Tim. 4:16; 1 Peter 3:15ff)

c. **Do Not W_____**

- i. We must never let even our legitimate concerns turn into sinful worry and anxiety (cf. Ps. 23; Phil. 4:6-7)
- ii. This is not an excuse for not studying and preparing!
- iii. This promise of Holy Spirit blessing is specifically for the Tribulation Saints, but is also available to all who suffer persecution (1 Peter 3:15; Matt. 6:25-34; Phil 1:12-18)

d. **P_____ to the End**

- i. The anti-Christ's persecution will even breakdown usually reliable familial relationships (Micah 7:6)
- ii. His hate for us will infect all of society/culture (cf. John 15:18-21)
- iii. Perseverance is not a magical recipe; it is the outward manifestation of a heart truly saved and transformed by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (cf. Matt 13: 3-9, 18-23; 24:13; John 8:31; 10:28, 29; Rom. 8:38, 39; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; 15:1-2; Gal. 6:9; Eph. 1: 3-6; Phil. 1:6; Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 2:1-3; 4:14; 6:11-12; 10:39; 12:14; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:7; 2 Peter 1:10; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12; 21:7)

e. **F_____ Persecution**

- i. The Tribulation's persecution will be so intense, Saints must flee to carry out their vital mission
- ii. **the Son of Man comes** is an eschatological promise of Jesus' Second Coming (cf. Dan. 7:13-14 Matt. 16:28, 30;

24:14; 25:31; 26:64; Heb. 10:25; James 5:7–9; Rev.
19:11-16)