

The Story of Wolves and Lambs



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This little booklet is transcribed from a bi-weekly blog that “Friends of Life in The Spirit” regularly produces in video, audio, and now printed format. We have chosen to retain the conversational flow of the original teaching rather than edit it into a bookish type feel.

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*“Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as
lambs among wolves.”*

(Luke 10:3)

The first thing to notice in Luke 10:3 is Jesus is saying to “go your ways.” There are many different ways: we are all going different ways in ministry, and in our life, in all these things. But He makes one thing clear: there are all these many ways, but there is only one way that you are being sent. “Go your ways: behold, I send you as lambs...” That is what the Lord is doing. He is sending us, not as just Christians, but He is sending us as lambs. And that means He is sending us in His Spirit and in His Nature, of His Way of selflessness, His Way of sacrifice, His Way that does not live for Himself but lives for God and others.

That is pretty powerful, but note what the rest of the verse says: “I send you as lambs among wolves.” That is what we are going to address. Similar scriptures are found in Matthew 10:16, but adding one extra point: “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves.” He sends us forth, but He does so in the midst of wolves. The wording is very specific, it says “in the midst of wolves.” We will return to that shortly.

So, we understand that He is definitely sending us. He definitely has something on His Heart, and the “many ways” are not the important thing. The important thing is that each of us, in the way we go—in the ministry way we go—that it is as a lamb, that we go in His Spirit and we go in His nature. Usually when we think of being sent, we think of being sent to our ministry, to what is important to us. But there is something more important than our ministry and what is important to us, and that is His Spirit. And that is the overriding thing He expresses here. He is not just sending us as Christians. He is not just sending us as ministers, but as ministers of His nature in all things.

Matthew 10:16 continues, “...in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.” Consider the word “harmless”...because Jesus is talking about doves — or The Dove. We know the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus as a Dove. And usually when we think about the Dove, one of the first things that comes to our mind are His wings. But the first thing that comes to Jesus’ mind is His harmlessness. That is what He thinks about, because He has known the Dove, the Holy Spirit, from eternity past. And this is how He portrays Him.

So where are we sent? We are sent in the midst of wolves. To be “sent” is deliberate – that means we are intentionally sent there. Most people would think the Lord would send us away from wolves and that He would not want us to be around wolves. But think about it: if He really wanted that, then when we got saved He would have taken all of His lambs home to be with Him. He would take us home, because we are all saved and can now be taken out of a world that has wolves in it. But you see, just because we are saved does not mean the nature of that Lamb is formed in us. And that is His

whole heart, and that is what He is intentionally doing in sending us there. Again, most of us want to go to a happy place. We would say, "Oh no, there are wolves! I just want to go to a happy place!" But He has a plan. Let us look at some of those scriptures that have to do with that plan. Just three chapters back in Matthew 7:15-18:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."

He mentioned in the first verses we read "in the midst of wolves." We understand now He is going to send His lambs in the midst of wolves. And what are these wolves He is talking about? This is how I worded it: I put the word "prophets" in quotation marks and read it, "Beware of false...which come to you in sheep's clothing." It does not matter what you name it, you can name it prophet or whatever else. If it is false, it is not the Lamb. But notice it comes in those clothes, the sheep's clothing. So, they appear, and when they appear, they appear like lambs. They appear in sheep's clothing. And so you can even say they are brothers and sisters, maybe ministers, or what have you. But their appearance is like a lamb. We could go into the books of Revelation and Daniel and really examine that area right there.

So who are they? Who are they, then? Well, part of the thing we may need to consider is...it could be us. It could be us. We could be wolves in sheep's clothing and not even know it.

Remember what the scripture said: "You will know them by their fruits." And then He starts talking about thorns and thistles and corrupt fruit and evil fruit and He gets into all of that. And though we might assume we are not a wolf, Jesus is saying these things and giving us the scriptures to say...maybe we are. By the way, there is good news at the end of this, so do not freak out too much.

Here is the real question: do we put on sheep's clothing? That is the question. Are we putting on sheep's clothing? Is it just being put on but it is not Him inside? We are not putting the lamb in. We are putting Him on. We go to church and we put Him on. We get into certain situations where we want to look spiritual and we put Him on like sheep's clothing, like lamb's clothing. The whole point in that scripture is to consider, what is on the inside? What is the nature? In my notes I wrote, "Lamb's clothing is easy to put on. It is easy to put on. Anybody can put on lamb's clothing for an hour or two in church or in certain spiritual settings. But putting on the Lamb on the inside is not easy. It requires us to deny our self. And in truth it requires us to love Jesus, the Lamb of God, more than we love ourselves. It requires a desire, a want to, for a transfer of nature, a transfer of attitudes, a transfer from us, and to love Jesus with all of our heart, soul, and strength."

And so, how do we know if we or someone in our midst are wolves? Jesus said, "Inwardly." Inwardly they are ravaging wolves. When it comes to the Lord, it is a situation of what is inward, not what we are putting on the outside. If we are honest with ourselves, we can look at certain times and certain things and see this beast, this wolf come out of us, these teeth show up and attack somebody. When these reactions come forth we

should examine and say, "Am I, in the most spiritual settings, putting on sheep's clothing and it is not really the Lamb? And am I, in the worst crisis, showing what is inwardly the situation within me?"

Jesus said, "Check what is inward." Check what is inward if you want to come to a true change. He also said, "You will know by their fruit." I do not think we are talking about fruit when it is convenient. I do not think that is fruit; that is the same as putting on sheep's skins. That is what is "appearing," what the Word says is "they appear as sheep," yet they are not.

In Acts 20:29, after finding out he is moving on and may even soon die, Paul says this to the church at Ephesus: "For I know this, that after my departure, grievous wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." Here we have wolves and lambs again. Do you see? We are going to many different places in the Bible and this is a theme. "Grievous wolves entering in among you not sparing the flock." He continues in verse 30, "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." This is a big deal. It is a big deal to Jesus, who is making this contrast. It is a big deal to Paul, because he understands it and sees it coming. He is warning and praying with tears and trying to help them understand this: it is not the ministry you do, it is the spirit you do it in. It is not the ministry or the way you look when all eyes are on you. But is there a beast in there, is there a wolf in there? What about behind someone's back? We may be sweet to them in front of their face, but behind their back we have all these "beastly wolf" things to think or say about them.

Paul says, "Grievous wolves will enter in." And he begins by saying, "I know this." How does he know this? Because wolves will be wolves. That is how he knows it. Because he knows a wolf will be a wolf. And it is going to show up that way. He basically says, "They will attack. They will not spare the flock. They will speak perverse things about others." Why? They speak perverse things about others in order to draw these people unto themselves. That is exactly what it said. And that is so "wolf"! "This is mine, and this is my ministry!" That is just so opposite of the Lamb of God. If you put it in plain English, Paul says to this church, "I have been warning you in the space of three years about what is not the Lamb and what is the Lamb. I talk about it all the time. I share with you all the time." This is what Paul is saying in Acts 20:31, "For three years I did not cease to warn everyone of you day and night with tears." Over three years, to everyone, night and day, with tears. This is a huge subject. This is huge to God. This is huge to His apostle who is pouring out the Word; he is giving some of the purest word that is going forth to the ears of people, but at the same time he is having to warn them constantly, "Look, there are people who are going to look like lambs but they are not. They are going to keep putting on this Lamb I am sharing about. But it is only going to be the Lamb's clothing. They are not going to put IN the nature of the Lamb."

I was deeply moved by Paul's words. Being a minister myself, knowing how he must have been grieved, knowing he is about to leave and the wolves are going to come, even from among them already – Acts 20:30 basically says that it has already happened. They are coming, but also it has already happened – there are some among you already.

So, the question is, "Are they already among us?" Let's face it: we are in the process and we want the Lamb. I am not talking specifically to anyone, I am just sharing the

Word, but there is a way to go for some of us. Truly. We need to tighten our belts and press in more for His nature, because Jesus started this thing with, "Go your ways, but I am sending you as lambs." Basically, go the way of learning and finding the Lamb so you can "put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ" and put Him in you and be conformed to His spirit and His nature.

In Isaiah 11:6 it says this: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb." I am going to use that verse in relationship to one truth as to why He would allow us to be among wolves, in the midst of wolves. And then I am going to use Isaiah 65:25 to give us another view of why He would do that. Isaiah 11:6 says, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb." Jesus says, "I send you in the midst of wolves." Why would He do that? Why are we there? Because it is in that situation, when not everyone is a lamb, that you are really given the opportunity to show forth the excellencies of His nature. It is in the midst of wolves when they are unjust, they are unfair, and they are mean and attacking you, that is when the glory rises, that is when the incense is real. We can fake it on the little things, but when wolves are attacking, you find out who lives! Who lives? That is where you find out if Paul weeps, or rejoices with the Father as He is getting His Son. So, He puts us among wolves for a test. Not that He is testing us to see us fail, but He is giving us opportunities that the Life and the nature of the Lord can come forth even in the worst of situations.

And then Isaiah 65:25 says this: "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together." Now, if the wolves are all laying down with the lambs in Isaiah 11:6, then He is saying, "Go over there and be in their midst." We would say, "But that is dangerous!" Yes it is, but He would say, "I want to see My Son." Then in Isaiah 65:25, He is saying,

“They are going to feed together, they are going to be eating the same thing.” The verse continues, “The lion shall eat straw like the bullock... they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord.” So in Isaiah 65:25 is the beauty of being in the midst of the wolves and lions. We are sent there to let them see the Lamb of God and not us, the Lamb of God in us. And it is actually saying, “Stay there until the wolves and the lions take on the nature of Jesus, the nature of the Lamb. Just be there, because some of them are going to turn.”

What does that mean for us? That means it does not matter if we are putting on sheep’s clothing, if we are putting on lamb’s clothing, but not fully putting Him in: there is yet hope for us! There is hope for us. There is still the fact that He is going to take those wolves and lions. It does not matter what they look like outwardly, because inwardly they are laying down with the Lamb. Inwardly, they are feeding with the Lamb. Inwardly, they shall not hurt nor destroy anymore. They are lambs. That is glorious! That is the hope. That is the hope He gives to all of us.

To me, if I have been putting on lamb’s skin and trying to look like a lamb to fit in or whatever, but I know there is a lot of wolf in me, then I am going to admit that. I will say, “Hey, I need more of the Lamb, I need this Jesus. This is the Jesus that I want. The One that is beautiful, the One that is selfless. So, I am going to admit it and say it. I am not going to hide from my own flesh. Yes Lord! Get me!” And once you do that, then you say, “Okay, let me see the Lamb in You. Let me see Your Spirit, let me look in the Word and see the fullness of the Lamb nature and let me be changed into that same image, from glory to glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18). We know it is the Lamb within us that brings that about,

but in this picture it is trying to show that the Lamb came into our midst and was slaughtered. But now in our midst, now there are some who are laying down with Him, that are feeding on what He is eating, that no longer destroy nor hurt. He is talking about the lions and the wolves: now inwardly they are not ravening wolves, they are Lamb. That is our goal, our heart. That is what we cry out for and that is why we need more of Jesus and less of me.

If you are going through anything and seeing how off you are, do not worry about it, but press into the Lord. Do not focus on the wolf nature. Let it motivate you. "I do not like it and Paul is crying over it, so I want to be rid of it!" Then just start looking at that Lamb and pretty soon that wolf lays down beside Him, and that lion lays down beside Him, and they start eating what He is eating. And that Spirit comes into them and they are no longer about hurting or destroying, but blessing to their own loss.

Closing Prayer

Let's pray. "Lord, there is no shame. All of us start out as a wolf. But your Spirit, your Dove, the Harmless One, is trying to get us to move off from hiding back with clothing that is lamb, and be transformed by the renewing of our minds. So together we say, "Yes, Lord." We say, "Do the work, Author and Finisher." You are not just the Author, but the Finisher. Do the work and let Christ bring this wolf and this lion to their knees and be lowly with the Lamb. We love you, Lamb of God. We love you Jesus. We thank you for the harmless Dove that is on us now to work this in us. We thank you in Jesus' name, amen."

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