

Sermon Outline Notes

Sheep Among Wolves

July 12, 2026
Matthew 9:35-10:42

Mission: We will make disciples of Jesus Christ through intentional relationships.

Main Truth: Disciples of Christ are plugged into Christ.

Matthew 9:35-36 God has so much compassion for us that when He saw our troubles He was moved not over our physical struggles but on our eternal circumstances. "Like a sheep without a shepherd." Jesus turned his attention from the crowd to the future shepherds of the church, His disciples.

Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus wants his disciples to understand the goal: to seek and save the lost sheep. Jesus is the ultimate Shepherd and is preparing his under-shepherds to set up the church after his resurrection.

He is sending his believers to evangelize and disciple. The harvest was plentiful then: the Jews and Gentiles were in need of a Lord and Savior. The harvest is plentiful today: the world is in need of a Lord and Savior. We are called to evangelize, disciple and to pray for laborers to send into His harvest.

Matthew 10:1 Jesus empowered His disciples with His power. He gave them authority and power over demons and sickness. We must plug into Christ for our power to be his disciples.

Matthew 10: 2-4 Jesus choose twelve men to disciple: Simon, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, another named James, Thaddaeus, Simon and Judas.

Truth: Disciples are sent out (1-4)

Matthew 10:5-6 Romans 1:16 The early ministry of spreading the gospel of Jesus was to begin first with the Jews and then to be shared with the Gentiles.

Isaiah 53:6 The Jews had lost their way and now Jesus is sending his disciples to bring them back to Him. The disciples need to trust in Him to reach the lost.

Truth: Disciples bring the gospel (5-6)

Matthew 10:7-10 The disciples are to live humble lives for the kingdom, serving God without the goal of personal riches, fame, or glory. The real riches come in the eternal glory for Jesus Christ.

Truth: Disciples work for Jesus alone (7-10)

Matthew 10:11-15 When disciples encounter those who reject the gospel they are challenged to keep moving. We must prepare appropriately for the mission we are sent on by God.

Truth: Disciples work with resilience (11-15)

Matthew 10:16-20 We are Jesus' sheep and need to be prepared to face conflict. The disciples, at the time of Jesus, faced persecution of all kinds. We are not going out into the world alone, the Holy Spirit is with us. Jesus tells us that wisdom and innocence are imperative in the midst of wolves.

Truth: Disciples trust the Shepherd (16)

Matthew 10:21-22 The gospel is called the good news. We have eternal life in Christ. The good news will not be received by all and this will bring people to hate and oppose his disciples. Jesus tells us that endurance in the midst of these difficulties sanctifies us through God's saving work in us.

Truth: Disciples endure strife for Christ's name sake (21-22)

Matthew 10:24-25a We are to be like Christ, a servant being like their master. Jesus is preparing us to be "conformed to the image of His Son" and to be prepared to face difficulties for His sake. Rom. 8:29

Matthew 10:27-28 Disciples of Jesus are going to experience hardship. Jesus encourages his disciples by reminding them that they are in His hands. We need to fear God and not man.

Matthew 10:32-33 Proclaim Christ to others and Jesus will acknowledge us before His Father in heaven

Truth: Disciples obey (24-33)

Matthew 10:38-42 When a person took up a cross in Jesus' time, it was for the one reason: To Die. There was no looking back when you took up your cross and the world is left behind. Jesus is telling his disciples to "die to their old self and follow Me."

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In Him we are lost to death and found in life.

Truth: Disciples follow God all the way (38-42)

Main Truth: Disciples of Christ are plugged into Christ.

Application: Get involved as a disciple of Christ.

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus through intentional relationships.

Lead Pastor Vision for Discipleship:

- We create a culture so discipleship can grow organically
- We create a discipleship program so that people can have tools in the toolbox.

Discipleship happens when you spend time together and build relationships with one another.

Matthew 16:24-26

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

Small Group Discussion Questions

Sheep Among Wolves

Matthew 9:35-10:42

1. Share a time when someone discipled you 1:1.
2. To whom were the apostles initially sent, and who were they explicitly told not to approach? Why would Jesus not want the disciples to share the gospel with the Gentiles?
3. How did Jesus describe the disciples' mission in terms of being "sheep among wolves"? What does it mean to be sheep among wolves?
4. Why should you love God more than your own family? In what kind of cases would you have to make a choice between the two?
5. Can you share any examples of when you have had to choose between obeying God or family?
6. What is the significance of taking up one's cross and losing one's life for Jesus' sake? Discuss what it means to take up one's cross in your own life? What does it look like?
7. Discuss how your small group can help carry your cross? Are there practical actions that can take place?
8. Discuss ways you can individually and as a small group get involved as a disciple of Christ.
9. Discuss the role intentional relationships play in making disciples.
10. Discuss the Lead Pastor's Vision for Discipleship. What are practical ways you can personally, and as a group, be part of the vision?

Lead Pastor Vision for Discipleship:

- WE create a culture so discipleship can grow organically
- We create a discipleship program so that people can have tools in the toolbox.

Personal Study Guide

Being a Disciple of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20

Matthew 4:19

Luke 9:23-24

Matthew 16:24

John 8:31-32

John 13:34-35

John 15:5

Luke 6:40

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Acts 1:8

Romans 10:14-17

John 15:16-17