

AS WISE AS
SERPENTS

&

HARMLESS AS
DOVES

A PARADOX OF PROCLAMATION AND PERCEPTION

A Noble Mission

- Apostles – *Matthew 9:35-10:2* – participating in Jesus' mission.
- Preaching kingdom, healing – *Matthew 10:9-10*

God News Received as Bad News

- Some prove themselves unworthy by rejecting truth – *Matthew 10:11-15*
- Severe persecution – *Matthew 10:16-26*
- Same fragrance, different reaction – *2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

THE SECURITY OF OUR SENDER

“Behold, I am sending you” (*Matthew 10:16*)

- *apostello* – “send forth, send out; in relation to a sender send with a commission, send with authority, send for a purpose” (ALGNT)

Fearless Fellowship

- The result of being sent by Jesus is boldness and fearlessness knowing He is with you – *Matthew 10:18, 22, 24-25, 32-33*

A REPRESENTATION OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

Cautious but not Concealed (*Romans 1:16; Matthew 10:16; Acts 25:2-3, 9-12; Matthew 10:27-33*)

Prudent but not Prideful (*Ephesians 6:15; 1 Peter 3:15; Col. 4:5-6; Acts 13:16-23; 17:22-29; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5*)

Optimistic but not Oblivious (*Isaiah 55:10-13; Matthew 10:11-15; 7:6*)

Compatible but not Compromising (*1 Corinthians 9:19-23; 10:23-24; Romans 12:1-2; 14:1-4*)

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