

Go to God's Lost Sheep

Matthew 10

by Don Falkos

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Jesus gave his twelve apostles authority over evil spirits and the power to heal all sorts of illnesses. Then he sent them out, telling them:

Go to God's lost sheep. Heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out evil spirits. Don't take anything with you – no money, no bag, no extra clothes. Accept hospitality when it's offered; as a worker you earn your keep. If you enter a town and are not welcomed, shake the dust off your feet and move on to another town.

I'm sending you like lambs into a pack of wolves. Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Remember that I have been called "the ruler of evil spirits"; you can expect to be called even worse. But don't be afraid of those who threaten you; they cannot touch your soul. When you're put on trial, take the opportunity to talk about me. The Spirit will speak through you, giving you the right words to say.

If you're going to fear anyone, fear God, who has the power to throw you into hell. And yet, think about this. Two sparrows can be bought for next to nothing. But God keeps track of every single one of them. And God cares more about you, even numbering the hairs on your head. So don't be afraid. You're worth more than a whole flock of sparrows.

Tell everyone, "The kingdom of heaven is near." But don't expect a peaceful response; expect strife; people don't like to have their long-established beliefs challenged. But don't let that stop you. Whoever listens to you is listening to me, and whoever listens to me is listening to the One who sent me!"