

## The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 63

### Yeshua Sends Out His Emissaries ~ Part 3

In our last post, we continued to examine the topic of **Yeshua Sends Out His Emissaries**. In this post, we learned that **Yeshua Warns Them**.

#### Yeshua Warns His Emissaries

**Yeshua Himself** will face persecution; so too will His **talmidim**. Here, He warns them of their fate and assures them that the **Ruach** will give them the appropriate words in times of trial.

***<sup>16</sup> "Pay attention! I am sending you out like sheep among wolves, so be as prudent as snakes and as harmless as doves.*** (In the biblical world, serpents were associated with wisdom and cleverness.)

***<sup>17</sup> Be on guard, for there will be people who will hand you over to the local Sanhedrins and flog you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On My account, you will be brought before governors and kings as a testimony to them and to the Goyim.***

Compare verse 18 with Psalm 119:46, ***"I will also speak of your testimonies before kings, and I will not be put to shame."***

***<sup>19</sup> But when they bring you to trial, do not worry about what to say or how to say it; when the time comes, you will be given what you should say. <sup>20</sup> For it will not be just you speaking, but the Ruach of your heavenly Father speaking through you.***

**Yeshua** promises that the **Ruach** will give them the appropriate words to speak. Mattityahu has mentioned the **Ruach** in connection with **Yeshua's** ministry (Matt. 1:18, 20; 3:11, 16; 4:1), and here the **Ruach** is extended to the ministry of the **talmidim**.

***<sup>21</sup> "A brother will betray his brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup> Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever holds out till the end will be preserved from harm (will be saved). <sup>23</sup> When you are persecuted in one town, run away to another. Yes indeed, I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Isra'el before the Son of Man comes.***

***Before the Son of Man comes.*** There are at least five plausible options for understanding this reference:

1. **Yeshua's** coming to His **talmidim** upon their return from this mission (vv. 6–15);
2. **Yeshua's** resurrection,
3. The coming of the **Ruach** at **Shavuot** (Pentecost),
4. The destruction of **Yerushalayim** in 70CE, and
5. The second coming of **Yeshua** at the end of the age.

The overall passage is difficult to interpret, but it looks ahead to final judgment. **Yeshua** probably means that, at His second coming, there will still be people left in the towns of Isra'el who have not accepted Him.<sup>1</sup>

***<sup>24</sup> "A talmid is not greater than his rabbi, a slave is not greater than his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for a talmid that he becomes like his rabbi and a slave like his master. Now, if people have called the head of the house Ba'al-Zibbul (Beelzebul), how much more will they malign the members of his***

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<sup>1</sup> John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible.

***household! <sup>26</sup> So do not fear them; for there is nothing covered that will not be uncovered or hidden that will not be known.***

Despite the hardships they will face, **Yeshua** commands the **talmidim** not to fear; instead, they should be bold witnesses to **Yeshua's** message and faithfully carry out their tasks.

***<sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim on the housetops.***

The **housetops** were flat roofs where people gathered when the weather was pleasant. Since houses were close together, people could shout from their housetops and **proclaim** to an impromptu audience.

***<sup>28</sup> "Do not fear those who kill the body but are powerless to kill the soul. Rather, fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in Gei-Hinnom.***

People should have a healthy fear of **God** - treating Him with reverence.

***<sup>29</sup> Aren't sparrows sold for next to nothing, two for an assarion? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's consent. <sup>30</sup> As for you, every hair on your head has been counted. <sup>31</sup> So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.***

If **God** watches over sparrows, He indeed cares for His people. **Yeshua** uses a lesser-to-greater argument (common in Rabbinic teaching) to assure His **talmidim** of their value to God.

***<sup>32</sup> "Whoever acknowledges me in the presence of others, I will also acknowledge in the presence of my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. ~ Mattityahu 10:16-33***

In our next post, we will continue to examine **He Sends Out His Emissaries** in Mattityahu 10:34.