

Review / Introduction: Jesus never sugar coated the truth...He was clear as to what it would require of those who would be His disciples... II Corinthians 4:1ff

I. The Hard Facts Considered... vs. 16

A. *The One Who sends...*

1. A sweet consolation...
2. It is in His strength...

B. *The Ones sent...*

1. Followers of Christ...

Observation:

2. Christ cares for His sheep...

C. *Among Whom they are sent...*

1. Wolves...
2. Behold!

Observation: 1. The impetus to bring Gospel Witness does not begin with the idea that people are naturally inclined to receive its message...
2. Jesus does not say "I'm sending you among nice people..."

D. *The Deportment He Requires...*

1. Wise as serpents...
2. Innocent as doves...

Lesson:

II. What They Can Expect... vs. 17-18

A. *Beware of men...* John 2:23

Observation:

B. *Avoid extremes...*

Observation: Real men can and are enemies of Christ and the Gospel... *Psalm 83*

Lesson:

C. *Apostate Churches and the Unbelieving State will oppose the Gospel...*

II Corinthians 11:23-28 cf. Deuteronomy 25:3

Lesson: 1. The Scriptures prepare us for reality... *I Peter 4:12; Revelation 3:10*
2. Christ does not say hold back...

III. The Encouragement Given... vs. 19-20

A. *Do not be Anxious...* 19a see Matthew 6:31, 34

B. *Have Faith...* vs. 19b-20

Application: