

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 44: A Final Farewell, Part 3

### **Acts 20:28-30**

We ended last time with Paul's admonition to the elders of the church at Ephesus to guard the flock

#### **Verse 28**

- ✓ This is a theme that is quite common in the New Testament: **Matthew 7:15, II Peter 2:1, Jude 3-4,**
  - ✓ Is there a real threat?
  - ✓ Why would He use up so much of the inspired text if the threat were not genuine?
  - ✓ Not only does it stand alone as a legitimate threat but is also confirmed years later as Paul wrote to Timothy from Rome. **I Timothy 1:3, II Timothy 2:17-18.**
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#### **1. Suffice it say that the church of Jesus Christ is always a threatened church.**

- Satan never takes vacations.
- He uses people as his instruments.

**Who are they??** They are non-Christians who are posing as true believers: **Matthew 7:15-16.**

- ✓ Wolves in sheep clothing.

**How do they get in?** They get in because of our carelessness:

- ✓ **Verse 28** – “take heed.”
  - ✓ **Verse 31** – “Watch”
  - ✓ Watch the similar language in these passages: – **Matthew 13:24-25, 38-39** (tares look almost exactly like wheat except when they put on fruit.) **II Peter 2:1-3; Jude 4; II Corinthians 11:13.**
  - ✓ Think about it: When do wolves come in? **At night** when its dark and sheep are sleepy **Zephaniah 3:3.**
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#### **How do we spot a wolf?**

- ✓ By their fruit
- ✓ What fruit should we be aware of?:
  1. False doctrine: **I Timothy 1:3, II Peter 2:1-3, I Timothy 4:1-3**
  2. False practices: **Romans 16:17-18, I John. 4:20-21**

**Who's susceptible?** **All of are**—all sheep can be taken down by a wolf if they are not careful.

1. The Alone are: Don't go at it alone.
  2. The weak and sick are: Watch yourself when you are fatigued by difficulties and hard times:
    - ✓ Wolves can run all night long and slowly wear down their prey no matter how big and conditioned they are.
    - ✓ **“Fatigue makes cowards out of strong men.”**
  3. Young are: **I Timothy 3:6.**
    - ✓ Know that you are and make yourself accountable and stay in the flock.
  4. The foolish are: **I Corinthians 10:12, Galatians 6:1.**
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