



20 FEBRUARY 2018

A MISSION DISCOURSE

Matthew 10:16 "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. 19 When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your **Father** speaking through you. 21 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; 22 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. 24 "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

..... **Matthew 10:34** "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

Matthew 10 begins with Jesus sending his disciples out "like sheep into the midst of wolves". They are warned that this would be difficult and dangerous, resulting in the division of families and alienation from communities. This flies in the face of many preachers who promise that following God will result in blessing, success and social status. Lent can become a helpful reminder that the Christian life embraces struggle, hardship and even death as an integral part of our faith journey.

For Thought

Verse 1 For the ones who can't break the addictions and chains You try to give up but you come back again Just remember that you're not alone in your shame And your suffering	Chorus <i>There is hope for the helpless</i> <i>Rest for the weary</i> <i>Love for the broken heart</i> <i>There is grace and forgiveness</i> <i>Mercy and healing</i> <i>He'll meet you wherever you are</i> <i>Cry out to Jesus, Cry out to Jesus</i>	Verse 2 To the widow who suffers from being alone Wiping the tears from her eyes For the children around the world without a home Say a prayer tonight
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Lyrics - Third Day - Cry Out To Jesus

The Second Sunday in Lent

The Cost of Discipleship

The Scripture passage for the day is drawn from Reuben Job and Norman Shawchuck, A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and other Servants, (Nashville, The Upper Room 1983), 112.

This reflection is from my own devotional exercises for the day.