

## Be Bold not Brash

Matthew 10 has often been called the "Commissioning of the Twelve;" it signifies an important first step in the handing down of Jesus' ministry to the 12 Apostles. In this first phase, Jesus sent them only to Jewish territory and gave them authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons and proclaim the kingdom of heaven. Jesus also gave them specific instructions on how to go about proclaiming the kingdom to the people. In the second part of Matthew 10, Jesus warns the Apostles of coming persecutions as they go about proclaiming the kingdom; He says to them, "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you



in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans." (Mt 10:16-18) The Apostles were not taking on an easy task; they will be rejected, hated and persecuted.

St. Paul had a prophetic warning for Timothy, who accompanied him in his missionary journeys and later became the leader of the early Church in Ephesus: "For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths." (2Tim 4:3-4) Throughout the history of the Church, many who have been believers have become unbelievers. Many unbelievers have turned to their own interpretations of the revealed truths handed down by the Apostolic tradition. In modern times, many have been seduced by the New Age movement, which promises "energy healing," holistic health and heightened spiritual consciousness.

Was Matthew 10 meant only for the Apostles, missionaries and preachers? The timeless message of Matthew 10 applies to all Christians: Do not be afraid, the truth will be revealed, do not fear men but fear God alone. If you acknowledge me before others, I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But if you deny me before others, I will deny you before my heavenly Father. (cf. Mt 10:26-33)

For those of us who remain in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, we too are not spared from persecution. We will be tested, insulted, mocked and accused falsely by those who do not understand the Christian faith handed down through the Apostolic succession. Jesus tells us not to fear what these haters can do to us, and we should not compromise our faith and try to appease them. In this world there will be trouble, but we must remain focused on our eternal destiny with Jesus Christ, our Lord, in heaven. Ultimate justice and knowledge of God await us and our hope outweighs any temporal harm that human beings can do to us.

Jesus advised us, "Be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves." (Mt10:16) To be "shrewd as serpents" means (1) to stay informed about the world so we are not easily misled or taken advantage of, (2) to discern people's motives, (3) to be cautious of being tricked or manipulated, and (4) to manage our time and energy wisely with difficult people. To be "simple as doves" means (1) to keep a pure mind and

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heart, (2) to be considerate of the situation of others, (3) to avoid acting brashly or recklessly, and (4) to guard against provocations and circumvent hostility.

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have a total of 42 participants in our Summer Camp at Unicoi State Park. Thank you to all who have registered, we will give detailed instructions within the next couple of weeks!

Today is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of June, we have ordered a birthday cake for you.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has launched its “Rooted in Christ – Growing in Faith” campaign to raise funds for the programs and activities of the Archdiocese. Each parish and mission church in the Archdiocese is expected to participate with their individual goals. The Archdiocese has designated our parish goal of \$60,000, and has scheduled our parish to begin with a preparation period from January to March 2027 and actual campaign period from April to September 30, 2027.

Did you know that you can make donations to the church directly from your retirement account? Each time you make a distribution from your retirement account, it is counted as taxable income. However, if you make a donation (up to \$108,000), to qualified charities through QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions), these donations, although not tax-deductible, are excluded from taxable income. Many older retired donors use this strategy to lower their taxable income, but it also satisfies Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) without increasing their adjusted gross income (AGI). Consult your financial advisor or contact your retirement account specialist.

Prayer List: Jasmine Ho, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

<b>Mass Schedule</b>	<b>Confessions</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	By Appointment	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)		
	<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	First Fridays after 6:30 PM Mass	
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)		
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 6:30 PM (English)		