



KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

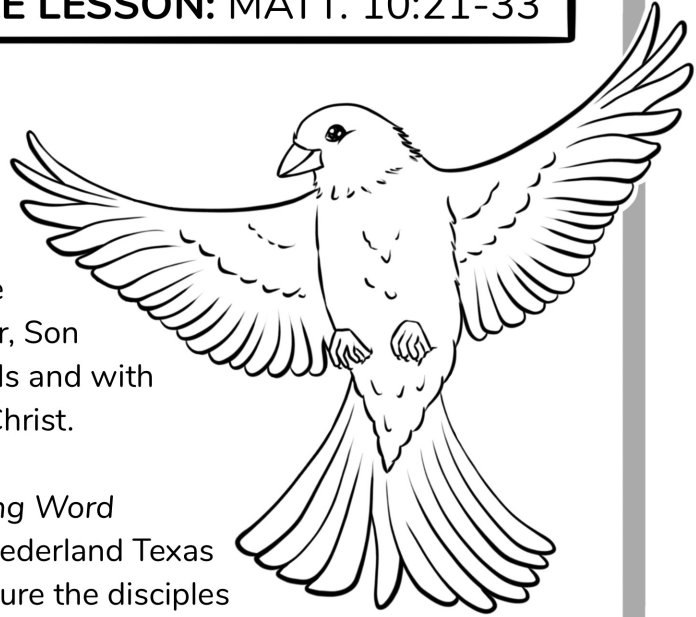
4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH, 2023

BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 10:21-33

Matthew 10:21-33

In last week's lessons Jesus gave gifts of the Spirit and of Power to the disciples so that they could act on His behalf and continue His mission on earth. Today we learn that despite the blessings given by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the disciples will be attacked with words and with actions and we will all have difficulties as followers of Christ.

In an excerpt from KFUE radio's broadcast *The Strong Word* Rev. Joshua Knippa of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Nederland Texas says that in these verses from Matthew: "Jesus makes sure the disciples know what they are getting into. The apostles had a high calling that would involve flogging, persecution, and hatred from others."



We too have a calling and are to continue the work of the disciples by sharing the good news of God's love and there is no guarantee that it will be easy — in fact it will often be hard. In verses 21 and 22 Jesus points out that even family may turn against us.

However, there are words of encouragement and protection mixed in with the caution. Jesus does not discourage the disciples with his warnings but urges them to "proclaim from the roofs" what He has told them. In verses 29 to 31, Jesus provides the reassurance that no one is left to suffer on their own. He reminds us of how well God knows us and how He created us with care, not as an afterthought or without purpose. He knows what will be difficult for us, and what will bring us joy. He knows so much about us that He could tell you the number of hairs on your head (verse 30). No one on earth knows more about us than our Father in heaven. Jesus knows how difficult life is and will be with those who love Him, and He chose to die for us so that our sins would be forgiven and as a perfect Son, speaks up for us to God the Father (verse 32).



Prayer

Let us pray together: Father in heaven, thank You for caring for us and for taking such interest in our lives that You know everything about us. Help us to remember the calling You had for the disciples and the call we have, to continue the work on earth of sharing Your love with others. Help us to be brave so we can talk about You even when others turn against us. In Jesus' Holy name we pray. Amen.