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Devotion for October 8th, 2021

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for My sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

- Matthew 10:16-20

My friends in Christ, our Lord Jesus has commissioned us to spread the Gospel throughout the whole world. What follows here is the Great Commission given to us by Jesus and written for us by His disciple Matthew:

"And Jesus came and said to them [His disciples], 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

(Matthew 28:18-20)

What a blessing to be invited to be ambassadors for the Gospel of Jesus to the whole world and also knowing that He is right there with us as we go forward in His name. In our Bible passage for today, Jesus was warning His disciples to be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves as they went out into the world

of wolves. Jesus also warns us in the same way as you and I go out and share the Gospel.

It is a good thing that we have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, because not only do we have forgiveness of sins and eternal life, but we are members of the kingdom of God and have received the Holy Spirit.

That is right: you and I walk in the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples and us also to not be anxious when we are confronted by evil in the world. We will receive the words we need to say from the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit we received at our baptism. We have nothing to fear for Jesus is with us.

Let us pray. Thank You Lord for trusting us with the important task of spreading the Gospel. As we spread the good news, be with us, guide us and our steps and words as we go forward in the Spirit as Your ambassadors to the world. We ask this in Your name, Jesus. Amen.

*In Christ Jesus,
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor
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