

Sent Out and Pushed Back

Matthew 10–12

What We Found

- Jesus gave twelve men his own authority and bound himself to them: he who receives you receives me. In Jewish law the commissioned agent stood in the sender's place; the apostles are Christ's agents, and the sending the apostles would later extend by appointing others begins here, with Christ sending the Twelve.
- Jesus promised his messengers wolves and crosses, not comfort, and declared that decision about him would divide even households. Whoever loses his life for his sake will find it.
- To John's question from prison, Jesus answered with Isaiah happening: the blind see, the lame walk, the poor hear good news. Blessed is the one whose broken expectations do not become offense.
- No one knows the Father except the Son, and the Son with that privilege immediately throws the door open: come to me, all who labor. The yoke is easy because he is yoked alongside.
- "Something greater than the temple is here." The temple housed God's presence; Jesus is that presence in person.
- "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother" does not demote Mary; by Jesus' own criterion she is the charter member of his family, blessed in body and more blessed in faith.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. Clement of Rome (Letter to the Corinthians)

Christ was sent from God, the apostles from Christ, and the apostles appointed tested men to succeed them. The pattern of sent men sending men is as old as the Gospel itself.

Voices of the Church: St. Augustine (On Holy Virginity)

Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ than in conceiving his flesh. Far from demoting her, the Lord's words crown her twice: mother in body, first of all disciples in heart.

Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew)

The Lord does not remove the yoke but changes its nature: what makes labor light is love. Christ is yoked alongside, and what is carried with him ceases to crush.

Live It This Week

- Pray Matthew 11:28–30 each evening, naming your actual burden out loud before the Lord.
- Do one act this week as Christ's representative on purpose: a visit, an apology carried, a mercy delivered in his name.
- If Matthew 12:31 has ever frightened you, take heart. The Church teaches that there are no limits to God's mercy; the sin that cannot be forgiven is the deliberate, persistent refusal to accept that mercy, hardened into final impenitence (CCC 1864). Pastors have long observed that anguish over this sin is ordinarily a sign of a conscience still alive to grace, not of the sin itself. If the fear lingers, bring it to a priest or confessor.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 11:28 (RSV2CE): *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*

Before Next Session

Read Matthew 13: seven parables of the kingdom. Note which one you understand least.

Catechism References

CCC 858–860 · CCC 551 · CCC 590 · CCC 1864