

# MATTHEW 10

## THE TWELVE APOSTLES (10:1-15)

St. Gregory the Dialogist on love for the world vs. the kingdom of heaven:

“It is easy now, when we see everything heading for destruction, to disengage our minds from love of the world. But then it was very difficult, because the disciples were sent to preach the unseen kingdom of heaven at the very time when everyone far and wide could see the kingdoms of earth flourishing.”

## COMING PERSECUTION (10:16-26)

An anonymous early Christian on the Spirit speaking through Christians:

“(Christ) meant that neither then nor now can they do or speak anything without the Spirit of God. It is as though He said to them, ‘...So, if now at a time when there is no danger, my grace is at work in you, how much more will it be in you when persecution comes? For He Who sustains you in peace will help you all the more in war.’”

## FEAR GOD RATHER THAN PEOPLE (10: 27-39)

St. John Chrysostom on the love of God:

“IF then God is not ignorant of anything that happens in creation, and if God loves us more truly than the best human father, and if God loves us so as to have numbered our very hairs, then we need not be afraid. Jesus said this not to indicate that God literally has a number placed on the very hairs of our head but rather to show that God has perfect knowledge of everything about us and providentially cares for everything about us.”

## RECEIVING RIGHTEOUS SERVANTS OF GOD (10:40-42)

St. Hilary of Poitiers on treating righteous people with respect:

“He who receives a prophet receives him who dwells in the prophet, and he becomes worthy of a prophet’s reward by receiving the prophet because he is a prophet. And a like reward is allotted for receiving a righteous person. One who does this becomes righteous by honoring righteousness. In this way righteousness is attained through faith, taking on mercy as its duty.”

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)  
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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