

Into the Lion's Den Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time Saturday, July 14, 2018 8:15 AM
Is 6:1-8; **Mt 10:24-33** St. Kateri Tekakwitha, virgin (What would ever motivate anyone to follow such a man? The answer is the glory of the resurrection.)

“No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master.”

It is noteworthy that **Jesus is never really offering to his disciples a gift they can't turn down, quite the opposite.** He is always warning them about the **troubles** and the **persecutions** and the **conflicts** that are sure to come their way if they follow him. “If they called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household!”

Jesus was not much of a politician. Not only did he not offer what he couldn't deliver, he didn't offer anything particularly desirable in the ordinary sense of the term. He offered persecution. He offered shared suffering and, if not certain, at least most probable death by violence. This was his calling card. And yet **so powerful was the witness of his own being, so magnetic the power of the spirit that he embodied,** that nonetheless in spite of all these warnings, **there were** men who followed him, **men and women who followed him,** right into the lion's den, so to speak.

Now it is obvious that there had to be this very powerful draw to Jesus' mission or it would have never begun. And of course **the actual real draw was the extraordinary experience of the resurrection,** because we could imagine that if there had **never** been any resurrection, then his whole mission would have been over with his crucifixion. This is the eloquent and powerful testimony of his resurrection, although we cannot actually prove it in the ordinary sense of the word, but, in a sense, **the existence of the Church itself is a proof.**

Here Matthew is making very clear that Jesus never promised anything except trouble. **What would ever motivate anyone to follow such a man? The answer is the glory of the resurrection.** So we have to see that glory, that light, shine through the gospel texts, or they don't make any sense. That's what Matthew is trying to get us to see today.