

Dear Brothers and Sisters --greetings in the name of Jesus!

As our challenging times continue we turn to God's Word for instruction and encouragement.

1. Please pray over then re-read Matthew 10: 44 -42.
2. The Middle Eastern code of Shaliah is clear in this text, i.e., when a king sends his representative, that ambassador **MUST** represent the king in all that he says and does. God sent His Son, the Son sends US, we are sent to everyone else on the planet! When people see us, they should see God in us!
3. The central part of the text reminds us we are not all called to be prophets or preachers, many are called to simply be righteous people serving the Lord
4. The above thought is continued in the closing verse, disciples can even be the 'waterboys/girls' on God team, the Church -- even the simplest tasks done in His name become potentially powerful witnesses. Actually, the more humble the work/service, the more Christ-like it is.
5. Returning to the opening theme of Shaliah, in the "good" 'ol days", when Christianity was sort of our country's mainstay of values, it was EASY to serve the Lord -- easy peasy Christianity -- no great cost. **Those days are over.** Last week the anarchists and others started proposing to tear down images of Jesus! It started with the firebombing of the church across from the White House.

Your assignment this week: whenever you go out to eat, quietly but purposefully pray over your meal. Think about a cross for your front yard. When people walk into your house, do they know you're a follower of Jesus? There needs to be symbols, hangings, whatever, that clearly let people know your life belongs to God!

I'll be asking our church council to put a banner in front of our church that says "**JESUS MATTERS!!**". Game on Satan!!

Pastor

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum