



Essentials for a Healthy Church:

A BOLD FAITH

August 11, 2019

BOLD Faith

***Read:** This month we are looking at the essential trait of BOLD FAITH in the life of a healthy church. Tonight, we want to look at the boldness of faith Jesus demonstrated as we seek to follow His example with our own lives.*

DIG: READ MATTHEW 10:16-20

- What warning did Jesus give his disciples in sending them off on this “limited” commission? Why?
- What did Jesus mean ‘be wise as shrewd as snakes & innocent as doves’? Have you ever used this phrase before?
- Jesus warned them about coming trouble with the authorities but what assurance did he give them in how they were to respond?

vss. 21-25

- How might the message of Jesus cause brother to turn against brother? how have you seen this in your own family or others you know of?
- How difficult would it have been for you to follow Jesus if your family did not support your decision?
- Can you think of any other events in the life of Jesus where He faced conflict but stood firm?

vss. 26-33

- What words of assurance did Jesus offer here about those who might threaten the disciples even with death?
- What does He say about the value of life... YOUR life?

vss. 34-42

- How do you reconcile Jesus' words in vs. 34 with the popular notion of Jesus being a peacemaker? What do you think He is meaning?
- Some see in these words a Jesus who is more 'rebel' or 'radical' than we traditionally think. What do you think of those labels or how else would you describe Him?

Discuss:

- In these and other passages, it is clear that Jesus prepared His disciples to face hardship and even persecution as His followers. He admonished them to stand firm, to continue on and- to use our terminology- to be BOLD in the face of the world. How can we demonstrate that same boldness today?
- What do you see as the primary challenges to our faith today in our contexts? In our region? In our time?
- Can you share a time when you felt especially 'bold' in demonstrating your faith? What challenge were you facing and what emboldened you?
- What is the boldest thing you've ever done for the sake of the gospel? Stand up in front of a crowd to confess your faith? Teach a Bible class? Preach a sermon? Speak to a friend about Jesus? Speak to a stranger about Jesus? Knock doors to share the gospel? Go on a mission trip? Other? Please share!
- Why do you think more boldness isn't encouraged in the church today... or is it? What has been your experience?

GROUP CHALLENGE:

- *This month we want to begin praying about and thinking about bold ministry opportunities that God may be bringing our way as we move into 2020 and our focus becomes reaching our Community for Christ. Begin brainstorming & praying tonight!*

PRAY

What/ who does this group need to be in prayer about tonight?