

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday January 22, 2024 - Joshua 1: 9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Read Joshua 1 for meditation and inspiration.



## ***MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS***

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

<sup>18</sup>“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.””

A sixth-grade teacher was trying her best to discipline a particularly mischievous student. She tried reasoning with him. She tried scolding him. She tried bargaining with him. Again and again, she sent him to the principal's office. Finally, she called the boy's mother. "I'm at the point of no return with your son," she said. "He's out of control." To which the mother replied, "What's the problem?" "The problem is two-fold," said the teacher. "Number One, his behavior is horrendous. And Number Two, he has a perfect attendance record."

The Gospel speaks to the problem that Our Lord, the Master Teacher, sometimes had with His students -- His loyal followers, many of whom maintained perfect attendance records. It takes place at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus had called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to discipleship and, Mark tells us, "Immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught" and yet they just did not get it. And again, at the end of the Gospel of Matthew He teaches His disciples and us later day disciples, what would be His last lesson and request, "MAKE DISCIPLES. You, my disciples duplicate yourselves and make more, and more, and more disciples." That is His lesson of blessing His Church through us. This is our mission and what He commissioned us to do.

This is His last word, His last lesson, His last request. MAKE DISCIPLES!

Let us be busy calling others to faith,

Expectantly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger".

Roger