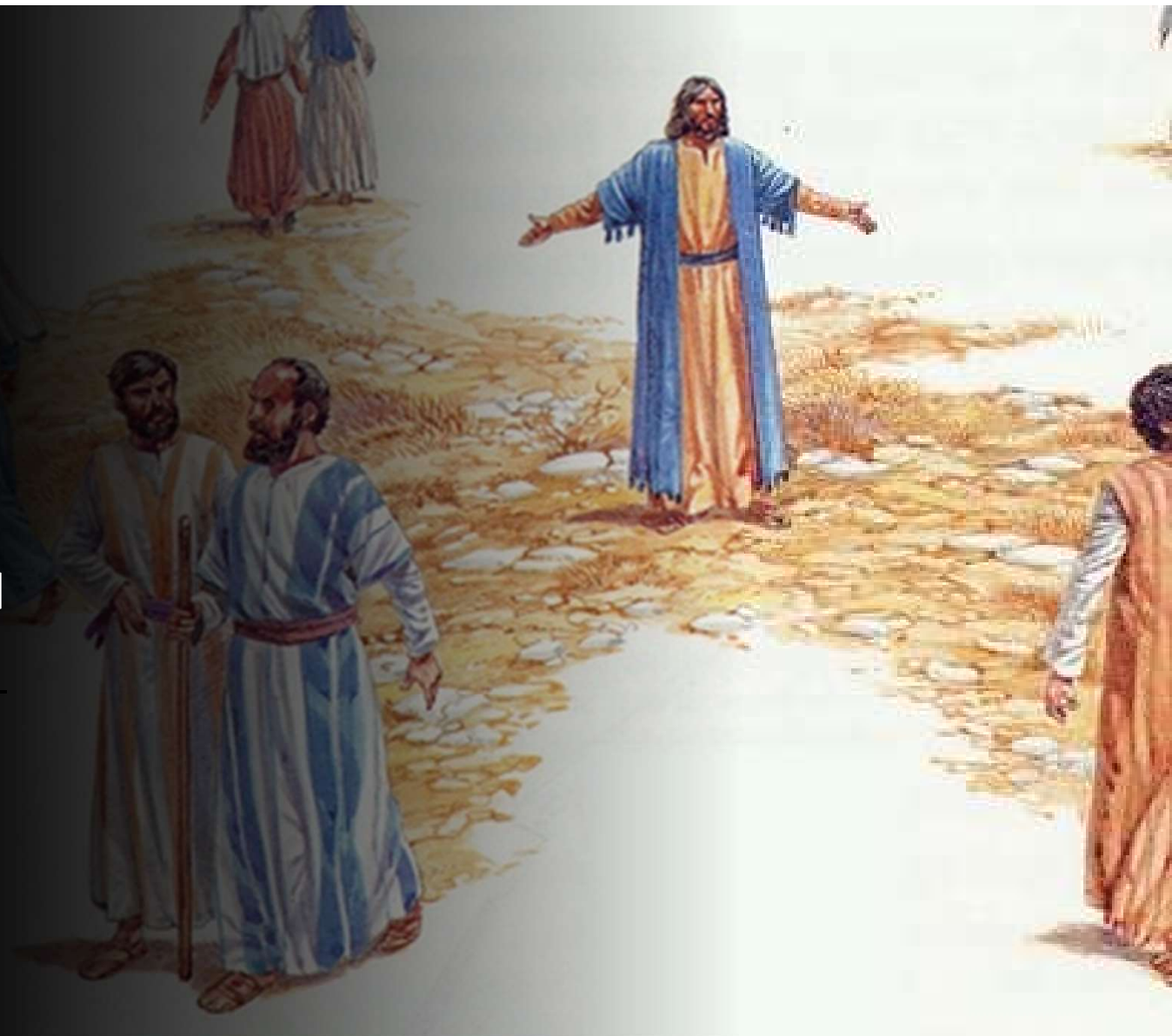


“After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.” – Luke 10:1



Preparing People for the Lord

1st Sunday of Epip

Preparing Disciples

- St. John the Baptist
- “And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Lk. 1:16-17)





Preparing Disciples

- Sending the 70
- “After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.” (Lk. 10:1)

Who is responsible for preparing the people for the Lord?

- **The Angels**
- “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?” (Heb. 1:14)
- “...surround us with Your heavenly angels, that we may be guided and guarded...” (Agpeya, Conclusion of every hour)



Who is responsible for preparing the people for the Lord?

- **The Church**

- “For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2 Cor. 11:2)
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...” (Matt. 28:19-20)





Who is responsible for preparing the people for the Lord?

- **The Family**
- *"The mother can give her child many times what Sunday School might give the child."* (HH Pope Shenouda)
- Jochebed
- St. Emilia, the mother of St. Basil of Caesarea, St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Peter Bishop of Sabastia, and St. Macrina





What are we to prepare the people for ?

- The Day of Judgement
- Eternity
- “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.” (Phil. 1:21-23)



What are we to prepare the people for ?

- To be beacons of Light and Truth
- “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:16)

What are we to prepare the people for ?

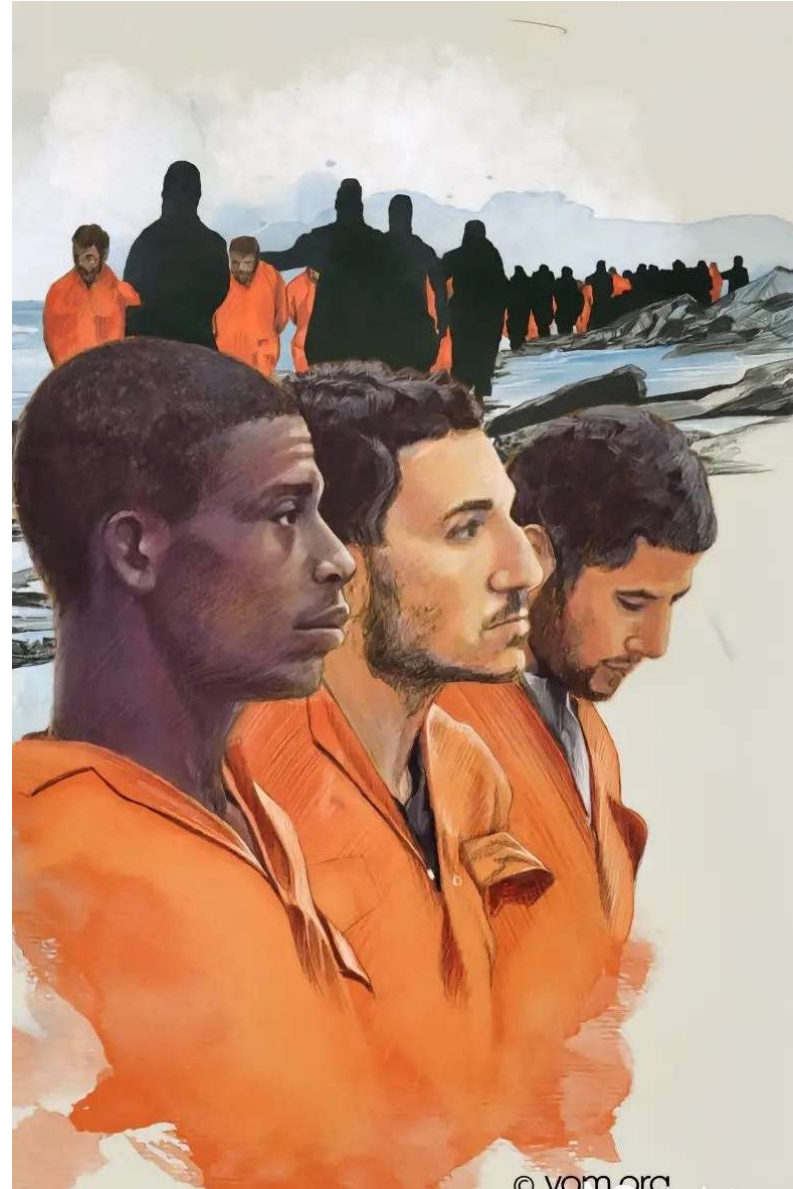
- **To face heresy**

- “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...” (1 Pet. 3:15)
- “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1 Tim. 4:16)



What are we to prepare the people for ?

- Martyrdom
- Through Chastisement
 - “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2 Tim. 4:2)
 - “Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.” (1 Tim. 5:20)



What are we
to prepare the
people for ?

- **Through prayer and encouragement**
- “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.” (Rom. 15:1-2)
- “Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.” (Heb. 13:3)

How does the Lord prepare His disciples?

- **Two by Two**
- “Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.” (Eccl. 4:9-10)
- **Pray for the Lord send out laborers**
- “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Matt. 10:2)



How does the Lord prepare His disciples?

- Lambs among wolves
- Significantly weak
- Expect threats
- Trust in the Shephard
 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.” (Jn. 12:24)
- Remain Focused
- You are a messenger of peace



Conclusion

“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Lk.10:20)

