

Matthew 10:1-15 – Bearing the Message

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, February 4, 2024 PM

Context: Jesus just prayed for laborers to enter the white fields

- Three chapters of preaching; two chapters of miracles and signs

Matt 10:1-15 – The Calling and Initial Commissioning of the 12 Apostles

We will dive into the details (trees) and then step back to look at the forest.

Stepping in to See the Trees

The Imparting (Matt 10:1)

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Disciples – A learner (student)

All Manner – Matt 9:35

- Spiritual power over the powers of darkness
 - Physical power over all kinds of sickness and disease
- Their power mirrored Christ's and was derived from His power.**

The Messengers (Matt 10:2-4)

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Apostle – Messenger, Envoy – one sent with authority by one with a higher authority

Why 12?

- Israel really began with 12 tribes (Old Covenant)
 - Continuity with the Old Testament, yet something new.
- Matt 19:28** *And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. What Christ was establishing would have a higher authority than the nation of Israel.*

The 12 Apostles

- We have only been introduced to five at this point (Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew).
- The import of the apostles is not what they did singularly, but their collective authority and witness.**
- Notice that they are introduced in pairing. **This may indicate their preaching partner.**

The Mission (Matt 10:5-6)

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

This sounds like a racial thing, but it is more of a geographic focus right now.

- Jesus helped and saved Gentiles and Samaritans, but He didn't go out of His way to reach them.
- Matthew 15:24** *But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*
- This is a limited mission at this point.
- This is important to understand because it helps us properly interpret the principles of the passage.**

Who is a lost sheep?

In Matthew's gospel, the lost sheep are all the Israelites, all who would hear.

Matthew 10:1-15 – Bearing the Message

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, February 4, 2024 PM

The Message (Matt 10:7)

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Not a New Message

- **Matt 3:1–2** *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
- **Matt 9:35** – The same message Jesus was preaching.
 - We tend to think in terms of a concrete place with distinct boundaries.
 - The biblical concept is God ruling or reigning.
Is at hand – has come near, not just on its way... **it is here and near.**
The K.O.H is at hand could be interpreted, “God’s promised reign is beginning.” or “God is now taking control.”
Satan wrenched the hearts of men from God’s hands. God moving decisively to reclaim territory.
“The kingdom came with Jesus and his preaching and miracles, it came with his death and resurrection, and it will come at the end of the age.” – Don Carson **It doesn’t have to be either/or.**

The Miracles (Matt 10:8a)

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:

With the message came the same kinds of miracles Jesus was performing.

Jesus is effectively replicating Himself to expand the reach of His ministry.

The Method (Matt 10:8b-11)

freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

Freely Received, Freely Given

This is the principle upon which Jesus is now about to expand.

In essence, what they received had been given by grace and it was to be extended by grace.

- Do not self-fund your ministry. Do not charge for your ministry.
- Do not take a bag (scrip) – knapsack. You aren’t to be lugging around a lot of supplies.
- Do not take EXTRA coats, shoes, or staves. Only take what you need to start.
- Be a guest in the home of one who is worthy.
Worthy – defined by their response to the message
As Jesus had preached to large crowds, there would likely be some in each place who had responded to the gospel.
- Do not be opportunistic.
Stay with the first person who receives you and don’t upgrade if someone wealthier believes.

The Outcome (Matt 10:12-15)

And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

- Bestow a blessing on the home of those who receive you.
- Provide the sign of a curse upon homes and communities that do not receive you.
Shake off the dust – this is what the Jews would do when leaving a Gentile area
Sodom & Gomorrhah received no such opportunity as Christ was providing these people.

Matthew 10:1-15 – Bearing the Message

Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church – Sunday, February 4, 2024 PM

Stepping Back to See the Forest

The Message is the Main Thing

- The Mission was to carry the gospel.
- The Miracles were there to support the message.
- The Methodology was meant to support the integrity of the message.
This was not about profiting off people but profiting them.
- The Outcome would depend on the response to the message.
They would not be run out of town for healing people and casting out demons.

He is Doing a Work in His Apostles and People

- The Apostles would have to live by faith.
These rules were for a limited, itinerant missionary evangelistic journey and not intended to be normative.
 - They were not establishing churches.
 - They were not discipling converts.
 - They were not going unto all the world.
 - Jesus' apostles collectively had a treasurer and a moneybag.

Still, this is indicative of the calling of ministry.

1 Corinthians 9:14 *Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.*

Where did this come from? Right here.

There is a sense in which the Lord will work to keep His mouthpieces dependent upon Him.

- The “worthy” people would have to learn to value the ministry.
Jesus set it up this way for His people to support those who would “Bear the Message”

Replicating Jesus Christ

- His Mission, Message, Miracles, and Method (not profiting self but the people)
Matthew 8:20 *And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.*
- The Outcome (response)
The consequences of receiving or rejecting this message from the Apostles was the same as if Christ had come.
Luke 10:16 *He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.*
Nothing has changed!
Phil 1:27 *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; **We bear the message, we are the body of Christ, we cast the blessing and we cast off the dust.***