

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church
Sunday Sermon

Date: April 04, 2021

Text: Matthew 10:1-42

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:1-42

Subject: The Twelve Apostles sent to the lost sheep of Israel

In the preceding message from Matthew 9:18-38, we considered:

1. The raising of Jairus' 12-year-old daughter from the dead and the healing of the woman with an issue of blood when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment.

2. Jesus' giving sight to two blind men and their disobedience in not making him known.

3. Jesus' casting out a devil from a dumb man insomuch that the dumb spake. The Pharisees saying wrongly: "He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils."

4. Jesus' going all over Galilee into the synagogues of the villages and towns to heal sickness and disease and preach the gospel of the kingdom of heaven. We read of his compassion for the multitudes; and his commandment to his disciples saying: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray he therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Let us now proceed to chapter 10, and consider Jesus' sending forth the 12 apostles to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 10:1 (KJV) *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.*

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, --

These twelve disciples as they are called in this verse are called apostles in verses 2 through 4. Jesus and his disciples are evidently still in Galilee where he has been preaching the gospel of the kingdom, healing, and casting out devils.

He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them

out, -- Jesus gave the twelve apostles power (Greek: exousia – authority) against unclean spirits (same as devils or demons).

What was this authority? To cast them out of those who were possessed with devils.

Matthew 10:2-4 (KJV) 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; 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Both Mark and Luke record Jesus' choosing his twelve apostles.

Mark 3:13-19 (KJV) [The choosing] *And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. 14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: 16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: 18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, 19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.*

Luke 6:12-16 (KJV) [The choosing] *And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; 14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, 15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, 16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.*

Mark and Luke also recorded the sending forth of the apostles to preach the kingdom of God.

Mark 6:7-13 (KJV) [The sending] *And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; 8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: 9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats. 10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. 11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city. 12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent. 13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.*

Luke 9:1-6 (KJV) [The sending] *Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2 And he sent them to preach **the kingdom of God**, and to heal the sick. 3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither*

money; neither have two coats apiece. 4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. 5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. 6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Matthew 10:5-6 (KJV) *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: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

Jesus sent the twelve forth and commanded them to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel – and not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans. We will read that the gospel was preached to them later – To the Samaritans by Philip, one of the seven chosen to serve tables; and by Peter who preached first to the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius in Caesarea. But for the twelve, at this time, they were to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel only.

Matthew 10:7 (KJV) *And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

Notice that the Lord commanded them to preach the same message that had been preached by John the Baptist and by Jesus himself as he began his personal ministry. They were to preach, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Luke’s account of this sending said they were to “preach the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:2).

Matthew 10:8 (KJV) *Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

More details about their going to the lost sheep of the house of Israel – they were to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. They had been freely given the power to do these things and they were to freely give them to those in need.

Matthew 10:9-10 (KJV) *Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.*

Interestingly, the Lord commanded them to not make material preparation for this preaching tour. They were to take no gold, silver or brass in their purses. No scrip – this would have been like a wallet or bag for carrying necessities. Not two coats, neither shoes, nor staves. Seems they were to take themselves only without any extra materials. Why is that? Jesus said the workman (alluding to them) is worthy of his meat (his food).

Matthew 10:11 (KJV) *And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.*

How did they inquire who was worthy in the cities and towns into which they were to go? Certainly not worthy in the sense of anything in them to commend them to God, but worthy in the sense that they appeared hospitable and willing to host the apostles in their houses. If they found this kind of persons, then they were to remain in that house

Matthew 10:12-13 (KJV) *And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 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 when ye come into an house, salute it. – How does one salute the house? They would do that by greeting the occupants of the house. I am told that, in that part of the world a salutation was made not merely by a slight gesture and a few words, but generally by embracing and kissing, a journey was interrupted or delayed frequently by saluting. A salutation, the noun form of salute, means to greet or pay respect with customary and honorable words and gestures. Get it? Do not we salute others with our letters – by a salutation?

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. – As in previous verse, worthiness means hospitable – welcoming them. That is, let the *peace* or happiness which you seek come upon that house, or for which you pray, in saluting it. If it were not worthy – or welcoming, one would not want to stay there, would one?

Matthew 10:14 (KJV) *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.*

Interesting commandment, is it not? If the persons of a house shall not receive you, nor hear you – when you depart, shake off the dust of your feet as a witness against them – for a testimony against them as Mark records.

Matthew 10:15 (KJV) *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.*

These words make one shudder in fear! If these people, to whom the Lord sent his apostles would not receive them or hear their words – their shaking off the dust of their feet as a testimony against them insures it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom

and Gomorrha in the day of judgment than that city (or that house). This tells us that there are degrees of punishment in the last judgment.

Matthew 10:16 (KJV) *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.*

The apostles first preaching tour was not expected to be easy. Jesus sent them forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Think about that! Sheep among wolves? What would you think might happen? Could not they expect ill treatment?

Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. --

The serpent is a very sharp sighted, cunning creature, and uses various arts and strategies for its own preservation, and especially to protect its head. In being wise as serpents, the followers of Christ, are to use all just and proper methods to preserve themselves from the insults and rage of men. We ought never to expose ourselves to unnecessary dangers. and, as much as in us lies, we should be careful to give no just occasion of offence, or irritate, and provoke others to do us ill. We ought to avoid all snares and traps that are laid for us. Also, we are taught of the Lord to and maintain the innocence and harmlessness of the dove, being free from all wicked cunning and craftiness, without meanness, malice, and wrath; not meditating and seeking revenge, but meek and humble in our dealings with others. We ought to lead inoffensive lives though liable to many insults, and much oppression.

Matthew 10:17-18 (KJV) *But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their*

synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

But beware of men: -- These are the wolves among whom they, as sheep were sent. These are not merely wicked men in common, the men of the world, and enemies of the Gospel; but mainly such of them as were steeped in men's religion, ecclesiastical and civil governors of the people, the Scribes, Pharisees, elders, and chief priests, and other rulers. These would deliver them up to councils and scourge them in their synagogues.

Matthew 10:19 (KJV) But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

But when they deliver you up, -- As they surely will.

Take no thought how or what he shall speak: For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. -- The Holy Spirit will prepare them to give an answer which glorifies God. The Holy Spirit moves the apostles to speak the truth when they are called into question by authorities. This is not an excuse for preachers to NOT study and be diligent.

Matthew 10:21 (KJV) And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

Family members shall so hate the message and the messenger until they will deliver them up to be put to death! More about this in the close of the chapter.

Matthew 10:22 (KJV) *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.*

The message of God's love for lost people and his mercy being on them, one would think that men would love this message – but the natural man will not. He cannot understand it, neither can he know it, except God make him spiritually alive. The result is that God's preacher will be hated of all men for Jesus' name sake.

Matthew 10:23 (KJV) *But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*

This tells them and us what to do when we suffer persecution. When persecution comes, we are to flee elsewhere. In the case of the apostles, they would not have gone over all the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. Jesus would soon follow them as we see in the first verse of chapter 11.

Matthew 11:1 (KJV) *And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.*

Matthew 10:24 (KJV) *The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.*

Our Lord speaks these words to strengthen the minds of his Apostles against all the reproach and persecution they were to meet with from the world. The disciples will know that because they have already observed the treatment their Master himself met with.

Matthew 10:25 (KJV) *It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the*

master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

It is enough that the disciples suffer for the master's sake – and the servant of the LORD bare up under the same treatment as his Lord bare up under. Since they called Jesus, the master of the house Beelzebub (that is, Satan), how much more shall they call the of his household. They and us can expect these harsh words from the unbelieving world.

Matthew 10:26 (KJV) Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

Fear them not therefore: -- You know what to expect – so don't fear them. Their hatred is toward Jesus, the master of the house. The disciples are hated for His sake.

for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. -- Men may cover their malice and wickedness for a while but very soon it will all be revealed to their great shame and reproach. In much the same way, the gospel may appear hidden in them who believe for a time. The unbelieving in the world will misrepresent you and slander you, and speak evil of you. But, remember if your good name be covered up now, it shall be revealed one of these days, perhaps in this life; but if not in this life, certainly at the day of judgement, when the secrets of all hearts shall be made known." It really is marvelous how sometimes in this life, misrepresented men suddenly obtain a repudiation of those who have slandered them. The truth shall be made known, definitely.

Matthew 10:27 (KJV) *What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.*

He speaks of those things which he had communicated to his disciples in private houses, when they were by themselves, and no one saw, or heard them, and so were in darkness with respect to others. Often, he would speak a thing in the ears of all – and take his disciples away privately and convey to them the meaning privately. He urged them and encouraged them to proclaim these things in light and upon the housetops!

Matthew 10:28 (KJV) *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Here is why we are not to fear. Indeed there are many about who would, if they could, kill God's people. Yet, we are not to fear them. Doubtless, you and I would tremble inside at the thought of dying, but doubtless it will be given us in that hour the spirit of peace and boldness. God help us to know this and hold it dear. Fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Fear God!

Matthew 10:29 (KJV) *Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.*

This shows us how that God sovereignly disposes of the birds of the air. Two sparrows were being sold for a farthing – a very, very small, almost worthless coin. Read this again: **AND ONE OF THEM SHALL NOT FALL ON THE GROUND WITHOUT YOUR FATHER!!** What does this mean? It means that one of them should not be shot, or be killed, without the knowledge, will, and pleasure of God.

Matthew 10:30 (KJV) *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.*

Amazing, isn't it? We have no idea how many, but God has numbered them. What is this about? It means not a single hair of his children's head falls to the ground without the knowledge, and will of God.

Matthew 10:31 (KJV) *Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.*

What an encouragement to the apostles! And to us! To the LORD, we are of more value than many sparrows! We are His inheritance! His beloved! Those for whom he was crucified! Those for whom he now intercedes from his Father's throne in heaven.

Matthew 10:32 (KJV) *Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*

It is not enough to believe in him with the heart, but confession of him must also be made with the mouth. Let's read that:

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV) *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

What are we doing when we confess Jesus before men: We are ascribing our whole salvation to him. We are giving him the glory

of it; we are declaring our faith in him to others, and saying what he has done for our souls. We are subjecting ourselves to his ordinances and joining in fellowship with his church to glorify Him. Our confession ought to be both by words and deeds, and to be hearty and sincere, so likewise visible, open, and before men. This one will Jesus confess also before his Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:33 (KJV) *But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*

How does one deny Jesus before men? He denies that he is a disciple of Christ and that Christ is his savior, Lord and master; he denies Jesus by acting contrary to him, by saying and doing things obnoxious to his mind and will. This person, Jesus will also deny before His Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:34 (KJV) *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: -- Many then and now wrongly expect that Jesus came to send peace on earth! The Apostles (and us) must not expect outward ease and quiet, and worldly calmness and quietness would be their lot in preaching the word. It is true that Jesus came to be a peace maker between God and sinners by the blood of his cross. It is also true that Jesus is both the author and giver of spiritual peace to his people. The Gospel of the kingdom which he brought with him, and sent them to preach, was the Gospel of peace; which, accompanied with his power, would produce peace in the consciences of men, and be the means of cultivating and maintaining peace among the saints. Yet "peace on earth" in a temporal sense, whether in the

world in general, or in Judea in particular, must not be expected as the consequence of his coming.

I came not to send peace, but a sword. -- By the "sword" may be meant the Gospel, which is the means of dividing and separating the people of Christ from the men of the world. It is a means of separating his people and from the world's principles and practices, and a separation of one relation from another. It also speaks of divisions, discords, and persecutions arising from the gospel. It is not to say that it was the intention and design of Christ, in coming into the world, to provoke and encourage such things; but this came, through the malice and wickedness of men, and therefore, was eventually the effect and consequence of his coming. A sword divides as Luke's words record:

Luke 12:51-53 (KJV) *Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: **52** For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. **53** The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*

Matthew 10:37 (KJV) *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

How striking these words! He loves father mother, son, or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. – This are the words of Jesus Christ, the son of the Living God. God gave this commandment in the Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:12 (KJV) *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

Is the Lord Jesus doing away with this commandment of his? In no way - the intent of his words is to show us that as Christ is infinitely above all creatures, he is to be loved above the nearest and dearest relations and friends; being God over all blessed for ever, and also the Saviour and Redeemer; which itself, makes him more wonderful and lovely than a common parent.

Matthew 10:38 (KJV) *And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

A person that doth not willingly, and cheerfully, and patiently bear and undergo those trials, and afflictions, and persecutions, which God in the way of his providence shall lay upon him, and bring him into, for Jesus' sake and his gospel, is not worthy of the name or reward of his disciples. Our Saviour calls all such trials, *the cross*, with reference to his own cross.

To not take our cross shows that we are not worthy of Jesus.

Matthew 10:39 (KJV) *He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*

He that findeth his life shall lose it: -- That man that seeks to preserve his life and the temporal (that is, the present worldly) enjoyments of it, by a sinful compliance with his friends and the world, and by a denial of Christ, or non-confession of him. That is, if that person is not, by the providence of God, deprived of the good things of life, and dies a shameful death; yet he is sure to lose the happy and eternal life of his soul and body, in the world to come: so that the present finding of life, or the possession of it, on such

sinful terms, will prove an infinite and irreparable loss unto him. Yea, what profit is it if a man gain the whole world and lose his own soul? What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

And he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. – This speaks of one who puts away his carnal desires in this life, counting them but dung, that he may win Christ. He loses his present temporal life unlike those who enter into the wide gate and broad way and walk the way to destruction, but he finds his life in Christ and in the ages to come, eternal life with unparalleled joy and happiness.

Matthew 10:40 (KJV) *He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.*

The Lord said this to comfort the disciples lest they should be discouraged on account of the sorrows, afflictions, and persecutions they were to meet with. Perhaps thinking that there would be none that would receive them and their message. Christ therefore suggests, that there would be some that would embrace the Gospel preached by them, and receive them kindly into their houses, and entertain them in a very hospitable manner. These are persons who would risk their own goods and lives by hosting the apostles. Jesus lets them know, that receiving of his disciples, was considered by him as the receiving of himself; and, in like manner, would it be understood and accepted by his Father:

Matthew 10:41 (KJV) *He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; -- This speaks of persons who receive and are hospitable to prophets (preachers of the gospel); that whatever is the prophet's reward, it is theirs also. The same can be said for those who received, help, and abet righteous men.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. – What a blessing to consider! Whatever God places in our hand, if we use that for the help of his children, we shall not lose our reward.

***Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown, and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' name.***

***O, Jesus if I die upon
A foreign field someday,
'Twould be no more than love demands,
No less could I repay,
"No greater love hath mortal man
Than for a friend to die"
These are the words He gently spoke to me,
"If just a cup of water
I place within your hand
Then just a cup of water
Is all that I demand."
But if by death to living
They can Thy glory see,
I'll take my cross and follow close to Thee.*** (Ira
Stamphill)