

The Gospel of Matthew #85

LESSONS FROM THE LOSERS

Matthew 10:1-4

I. Jesus calls them. 4 lessons:

1. Twelve

12 tribes in OT; 12 disciples in NT: this is foundation of the New Israel.
Beginning a New Society: the Church

2. Jesus delegates His own amazing **authority**

Every malady. Even **demons!**
Just like Him
Contrast Commission of 28:18-20: Word & sacraments

3. Delegates this to weak sinners

Disciples/lifelong learners (v1) and apostles/sent ones (v2)
Ministry always focuses on Jesus

4. What they had in common:

a) all Jews. That radically changed at Pentecost (Acts 2)

b) all men. That did not change after Pentecost

Spirit-filled ministry was equally for both men & women
Elders were restricted to men
(I Tim 2-3)

Conclusion: Ministry is HIS ministry thru us

II. Matthew names them. 7 lessons:

1. Peter is first, not foremost (v2)
Peter is first as spokesman, also as fool
Plague of Church thru history is corrupt powerful clergy
2. Prominent Peter and auxiliary Andrew (v2)
But Andrew faithful Bringer of people to Jesus
3. James & John go very different paths (v2)
God, not money or influence, determines your calling
4. Matthew the tax collector (v3):
 - Humility: only Matthew mentions this: grace
 - Hope: even a tax collector can be used by Jesus
5. Simon the Zealot, a guerrilla insurrectionist who *hated* Romans (v4)
In the same small group as Matthew, who collaborated with Romans! All one Body we, Democrats and Republicans...
6. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him (v4)
A warning to all who presume you are "in"
7. Sent them out two by two (cf. Mark 6:7)
Remarkably diverse community that changed the world
But He recognized affinity (eg two sets of brothers together)

Conclusion: this is a Gospel blood bought community of grace.

Such a community changes its world.
May God enable us to become more like that.

Are you part of the community, or a visitor who looks on, maintaining your independence?
Jesus calls His disciples to community.