

Matthew 10 Pt 1 Jesus sends Laborers

Matt 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Matt 9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Matt 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; **38** Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:35 – 38 are part of the message of chapter 10. In verse 35 Jesus goes about teaching in villages and cities about the kingdom of heaven. You can't have a kingdom without a king. Jesus is showing the people He is the King. Jesus is preaching to the Jewish people. The Jews are the focus of Jesus earthly ministry, because they are God's chosen people. Jesus teaches in the synagogues because that's where the Jewish people gather to learn about God. Jesus was born, in the flesh, as a Jew to reach the Jews. All of Jesus twelve disciples were Jewish. Jews will only listen to Jews. Anyone who is not Jewish the Jews consider heathen. Many go as far as to proclaim non-Jews are unclean dogs. The Jewish people, at the time of Jesus, are like lost sheep who have no shepherd. Those that should be of authority, the scribes, the Pharisees and the priestly Sadducees are blind to the true things of God, such as faith, hope and mercy. They are obeying a form of the law, but not according to true faith. Many religious leaders are focused on gaining wealth and pretending they are righteous while the Jewish people look for hope and don't find it.

Many of the Jews don't find godliness or righteousness with the temple or the temple leadership. They look elsewhere for the things of God. Many believe they found a true man of God in a prophet named John, who lived in the wilderness. He was proclaiming a message of righteousness and demanded the Jewish people to come forward and confess their sins and to turn away from their evil ways. They were to stop sinning as God convicted them of their sins. As a sign of their faith they were baptized in the river Jordan to show they believe John's message.

John not only taught a message of righteousness but taught the righteous one, the Messiah, is at hand and soon to be revealed. John proclaimed the lamb of God who takes away sins was to be revealed to the world and the Jewish people. John then found the Messiah, when Jesus came forward to be baptized and to fulfill all righteousness. John witnessed the Spirit, from God the Father, float down upon Jesus and heard the voice of God proclaim this was His beloved Son, in whom He was well pleased. Jesus then started His ministry with twelve disciples, some of whom had been disciples of John the baptizer. John's ministry then began to decrease as Jesus increased. At the time of the message, in chapter ten, John had been arrested by the current King Herod, who had John executed to please his wife and her daughter. Herod's wife wanted John dead, because he dared to preach that King Herod was a sinner for living with his own brother's wife as though she was his wife.

Jesus had preached to and healed thousands of Jews, but there were still millions of Jews to be reached. Jesus turns to His disciples and lets them know there are a multitude of sinners who needed to hear His message and be given the opportunity to believe. There are more who desire forgiveness of sins or healing than Jesus can get to in His human body. His ministry, on this Earth, was only for a short time. He is training a group of men to take over the earthly ministry to the people of this world. He tells them to pray the Lord will send out laborers into the harvest. Soon they will realize He is the Lord and they are the laborers. Jesus is discipling (teaching) these twelve men to take His place in reaching the multitudes of needy people.

Matthew 10 (KJV)

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.

As we continue to go through Matthew, remember Matthew presents Jesus as the KING, the anointed one, the Messiah. The Messiah translated to Greek is the word Christ. The book of Mark presents Jesus as a servant; Luke presents Jesus as a man; and John presents Jesus as God. Anyone who denies the Bible teaches Jesus is God hasn't read or doesn't understand the book of John.

If you pray to God to send someone to minister to people, don't be surprised if He calls you to go. Jesus ministry was not limited to preaching about the kingdom of heaven, calling people to repent and healing those in need. He was also making disciples to take over the ministry. Now that the twelve disciples had prayed for workers, Jesus was going to send them. He didn't just throw them out there, He equipped them for the ministry.

How did He equip them? He gave them authority. Jesus was able to preach the message of repentance and of the coming kingdom of heaven because He received the authority from His Father. Jesus is giving this authority to His disciples.

The disciples are going to proclaim the message Jesus gave them and will have the power to prove their message comes from God. Jesus gave them power to perform miracles and cast out demons. They have no power on their own. Jesus gave them power to command unclean spirits. He gave them power to cast them out. He gave them power to heal sickness and diseases. Jesus sent out His twelve disciples with His authority just as His Father sent Him.

We were not sent into this world to make Christians. We were sent to plant seeds and to water, with the word of God. Only God can touch a person's heart and give the increase. God will make Christians; we are to make them disciples. The bible says,

1 Corinthians 3:5-7 King James Version (KJV) 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Or again

John 6:41 The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." 42 And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, 'I have come down from heaven'?" 43 Jesus therefore answered and said to them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. 44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The Lord told his followers to go out into the world and make disciples. That is the great commission. We are to teach them, to guide them, to show them by example how to live. It is an awesome responsibility.

In the scriptures, we are currently studying, Jesus is training His disciples. He has ministered by word and miracles as they watched and listened. He watched as they attempted to cast out demons and on occasion allowed them to fail.

Matthew 17: 14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

He is preparing them to go out on their own after He leaves and continue to spread His message.

After Jesus crucifixion on the cross of Calvary, He rose from the grave. He then spent time with the eleven disciples to teach His new covenant of grace and redemption through His shed blood. Before sending them out, on their own, He sent them the Comforter, the Holy Spirit of God. They and other disciples were filled with that Spirit, on the day of Pentecost. They were given power to proclaim the gospel. Some were given power to teach and perform miracles by the power of God's Holy Spirit.

2 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.

These are the disciples Jesus is training. The first is Simon, the disciple we call Peter. The name Peter means small rock or little stone. He was a Jewish fisherman, not an educated man, but a man who worked hard with his hands. With him is his brother Andrew, also a Jewish fisherman. Third we have James, the son of Zebedee. We are told who his father is so we will know he is not the half-brother of Jesus or the other disciple James, who has a different father. This James is also a Jewish fisherman. Fourth we have John, also the son of Zebedee. He is also a Jewish fisherman. Fifth Philip, who was Jewish. There is not much else

revealed about Philip. There are other men named Philip, one was a deacon another was an evangelist.

Sixth is Bartholomew, also known as Nathanael, a Jewish fisherman. Seventh is Thomas, also known as Didymus. We know him as doubting Thomas, who didn't believe the resurrection of Jesus until he saw the spike holes in His hands. He also is a Jewish fisherman. Eighth is Matthew, the writer of the book we are studying. Matthew was the most educated of the disciples and had been a Jewish publican. He had walked away from his profession to follow Jesus. Ninth the other James, son of Alphaeus.

Tenth is Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus. He was also Jewish, not much more is known about him.

Eleventh is Simon the Canaanite, who was also Jewish. He was known as Simon the zealot. Twelfth Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Jesus.

5 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 is only sending His disciples to the lost sheep of Israel, the Jews, at this time.

They are not to go to the Gentiles. They are not to go to the Samaritans, who are half Jewish. They are being sent only to the lost sheep, the descendants of Israel.

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

Jesus told them to go. He was saying, as you go, preach the message of the kingdom of heaven is at hand. They can proclaim God's message and back it up with power, but only as they go and are obeying God's command. Unless they begin the journey, they can do nothing. If you want to receive God's blessings, you must obey Him. Not everyone is called to go, not everyone is called to teach or to preach. Those who are called, need to obey. The Bible says, how are people to believe the gospel, unless they hear? How are they to hear unless those who are sent, go and proclaim the gospel?

The disciples were to preach the kingdom of heaven is at hand, but only to the Jewish people. They were to tell the people God is offering them the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham. The kingdom of heaven is also the fulfillment of

the promise God made to king David, that his throne would last forever. Jesus was to fulfill the promise because He was a descendant of David through Mary. Mary was a direct descendant of Nathan, David's oldest son by Bathsheba, which made Mary a legal heir. Jesus was the oldest son of Joseph, by adoption. Joseph was direct descendant of Solomon, Bathsheba's younger son, who sat on David's throne. Joseph was the royal heir to the throne of David. With Jesus you have the fulfillment of the legal and royal lines of the throne. Since Jesus is still alive today, both lines end with Him and no one else can inherit the throne of David. Jesus was offering the Jews the kingdom of heaven. So why didn't the kingdom of heaven appear? The leadership of Israel, the priests, the scribes and the Pharisees rejected Jesus. Instead of worshipping Him, they set out to kill Him.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

To prove they are preaching the word of God, Jesus gave them some of His power to perform miracles. They can heal people who are weak and feeble, cleanse lepers of their horrible skin diseases and make their skin as smooth as a baby's skin. Jesus is giving them the authority to raise the dead back to life, just as Jesus did with the daughter of Jairus. They are given authority to cast out devils, as Jesus did with the boy who was dumb or the wild man who lived in the graveyard. Freely, as a gift with no charge, the disciples receive this power and freely, as a gift with no charge, they are to use the power to prove their authority.

To many so-called ministers of God are trying to get rich by proclaiming they have the power of God to perform miracles. Others try to get rich by teaching a method of how the listeners can get rich by following God's word. If either of the messages were true, the disciples would have been the richest men to ever live. Jesus told those who wanted to follow him that foxes had holes and birds had nests, but Jesus didn't even have a place to rest His head. He owned no earthly riches, no home, no bed. His riches were not of this world. Jesus sent out His disciples with nothing but faith as we see in the next verse. None of the disciples got rich preaching the gospel, healing the sick or casting out evil spirits. All the disciples suffered for their message and most were eventually put to death because of their faith.

9 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.

The disciples are to walk by faith in Jesus and nothing else. They are not to carry anything of value. No gold, silver or brass, which can be exchanged for food and shelter. They are to carry no scrip, which is a small travel bag to carry food and money. They can carry or wear one coat, but not two. They are not to carry an extra pair of shoes or a walking stick or staff. When you travel by foot, having an extra pair of shoes is like having a spare tire, when traveling by car. If you break the strap on your sandals, you have a problem. They are not to carry anything extra that would normally be taken on a trip. God will provide for them, just as He provided for Israel when traveling through the wilderness for forty years.

The Bible says, Deuteronomy 29 New King James Version (NKJV)

1 These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb. 2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land— 3 the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. 4 Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day. 5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet.

Jesus tells them they won't need anything extra, the people who believe their message will meet their needs for food and shelter. They won't get rich, but neither will they go hungry or have lack of shelter.

11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into an house, salute it.

As soon as they enter a city or town, they will ask who in the town or city is worthy. Is there anyone in the area, who has sought Jesus, followed John the Baptist or at least living in a way that shows they are at least seeking the righteousness of God. When a possible home of a worthy person is identified, they are to go to that home.

It reminds me of a door to door vacuum cleaner salesman, when I was young. The salesperson would look for a house, that was in pretty good condition, where the home and lawn were pleasant to look at. If the homeowner kept up the outside of the house, they probably kept the inside clean and would be worthy of using a new vacuum cleaner. When they went to the door, they always had a smile and a warm greeting. If the homeowner allowed them in, to demonstrate their vacuum cleaner, the house was worthy to enter. This is not the same as the command of the disciples because they had a much more important message to bring. After the two disciples, remember they were never sent out alone, they would talk to the persons in the home. If they verified the home was worthy (seeking God's truth), they would enter and stay at that home while they ministered to the town or city.

Another thing that might indicate a home was worthy would be if one of the occupants had need of healing. A sure way of entering a home would be to heal one of the occupants, who was very ill, crippled, blind or mute. Not only would they be more than ready to hear their message, they would also send word to friends and neighbors suffering various infirmities.

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.

How would an apostle determine if a house was worthy? Did they receive them as being sent by God.

The Bible says, Mark 9: 36 He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, 37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

38 "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us."

39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, 40 for whoever is not against us is for us. 41 Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward."

42 "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.

Jesus is using a small child as an illustration. The child represents a new believer or disciple. Even though the twelve disciples are grown men, they are children in the eyes of Jesus and need to be taught as a child. Jesus says if a disciple or new believer is doing His will and someone gives them a cup of water in Jesus name, they are worthy.

For a home and occupants to be worthy they must accept the message of Jesus, which the twelve are proclaiming.

14 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.

It was not unusual for a Jew to walk across Samaria to Galilee, rather than walk around Samaria. Samaria's were NOT true Jews, but half breeds, their land was considered unclean. A Jew would shake the Samaritan dust off his clothes and feet to not contaminate Galilee or their home with unclean soil. The disciples were entering only Jewish land and homes. If the people did not receive their word Jesus told them to shake off the dust of their home and land as being unclean.

15 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.

The Jewish people have had the word of God since the time of Moses. They knew the word and should have known the prophecies of the word. They should have been looking for the Messiah. Since they have the light of God and His Word they are without excuse. If they reject or persecute the children (disciples) who bring God's message of the kingdom of heaven they will be judged harsher than Sodom and Gomorrhah, during the time of Abraham. If Lot or a prophet had gone to the two cities and healed the blind, lame and diseased individuals, they may have believed. The Jews, as a nation, have rejected the messengers of God who came performing miracles to prove they were from God.

Today, we of the churches have been given the Word of God. Most church goers have a least one and usually more bibles in their home. Even though they have the word in their home they don't have the Word of God in their hearts and minds. We

don't need miracles today to convince us the Bible is the written word of God. There are many who don't treat the Bible as the written Word of God. It's not enough to own a Bible, you must open it and read it, study it, share it with others. You can only share the word of God with others by knowing God's written word.

The bible says, 2 Timothy 2:14-15 King James Version (KJV)

14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.