Notes of YF message on 10 Oct 2026: "Life of Christ: Principles for Preaching the Gospel"
Text: Matt 10:1-11:1 Memory Verse: Matt 10:32 Speaker: Pr David Chew
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As believers, we have a command from God to obey and preach the Gospel. The work of the Gospel is to be undertaken by God's people, the disciples of Christ.

1 Matthew 10:1-4: The Right Methods: As Jesus' disciples, we may be from different backgrounds, but we have the same calling: follow Jesus and make Him known. We must not rely on our own ability. We must always rely on the Lord. He also gives His disciples gifts to aid them in Gospel preaching. Our personal experience with Jesus is essential. We cannot testify of the power of Christ if we have never personally come to know Him ourselves. While knowledge of Scripture is important, our lives must also reflect the truth that we proclaim.

2 Matthew 10:5-8: The Right Message: *"…The kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matt 10:7). This means that the Kingdom of Heaven had drawn near, that Christ had come. When preaching the Gospel, the disciples were not sent to promote their own opinions or ideologies, but to proclaim the message of Jesus. The Gospel speaks of the good news that Christ has come and that we need Him because of our sins, and that reconciliation with God is only possible through Jesus and His salvific work on the cross.

3 Matthew 10:9-10: The Right Reliance: Jesus instructed His disciples not to take certain items with them, teaching them to depend fully on His provision.

4 Matthew 10:11-15: The Right Response: The disciples were instructed to have the right response to how the hearers receive the Gospel.
(a) Response to Acceptance: In Matthew 10:13, *"worthy"* means suitable or receptive. Jesus instructed them to remain in the household of a *"worthy"* person, and to continue their ministry faithfully.
(b) Response to Rejection: In Matthew 10:14, *"shake the dust off your feet"* is a symbolic act demonstrating that they had done due diligence, but had been rejected. This is also a Jewish practice of treating Gentile territory as unclean. The mention of Sodom and Gomorrah in Matthew 10:15 emphasises the seriousness of rejecting the Gospel.

5 Matthew 10:16-25: The Right Heart: When we share the Gospel, we can expect to be greeted with hostility or persecution. The imagery of sheep among wolves describes the vulnerability of Christians in a sinful world. In response, we must be wise and harmless, i.e. having wisdom to identify the danger and to act wisely, while maintaining God's standards.

6 Matthew 10:26-33: The Right Fears: The fear of man may tempt us to remain silent when we ought to speak. But we must remember to fear God rather than man. Man may harm us, damage our reputation or take away our earthly comforts, but we must remember to have eternity's values in view. Our fear of God must govern our decisions.

7 Matthew 10:34-39: The Right Loves: Following Jesus means that He is the preeminent. Our love for Him must take precedence over everyone. Following Him also means to take up our cross, to surrender our all and be willing to obey Him in all things.

8 Matthew 10:40-11:1: The Right Result and Reward: Receiving Jesus' messengers is receiving Him. The messenger does not speak on his own authority, but represents Jesus! And he need not always be standing on a pulpit. The Lord recognises those who faithfully proclaim His Word. No act of faithful service is overlooked or forgotten by the Lord.

In conclusion, Matthew 10:1-11:1 reminds us to be steadfast and to speak a word for Jesus every day! May we all strive to know Jesus and to make Him known.