

MATTHEW 10:1-16

Introduction:

1. Matthew 10 is a pivotal chapter. Jesus is commissioning the 12 in **preparation** for His exit out of the world and for Pentecost. Luke 10 states that He also sent an extra **70** disciples, who probably were assistants of the 12. Mark 6:7 says they went out by **twos**. They were to go out and persuade as many individuals as possible to gather around Messiah...apart from Israel's leaders.
2. Christ is preparing the 12 (from disciples to be **apostles**) for the Great Commission that is to begin in Acts **2**. The hope was for the entire nation to be converted. Then, as a kingdom of **priests**, they would carry the gospel of the kingdom to Samaria and the Gentile world.

****All that we read between Matthew 10 and Acts 2 is **preparation** for Pentecost.**

- A. Matthew 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.

*Christ separates the 12 out from a number of disciples, giving them **power** and authority.

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

1. Christ appoints-**sanctions** the 12 disciples as apostles.

Luke 6:13 - And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Mark 3:14-15 - And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, Mark 3:15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

2. Why just these 12?

Numbers 1:4, 16 - And with you there shall be a man of every tribe; every one head of the house of his fathers. Num. 1:16 These were the renowned of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers, heads of thousands in Israel.

I Chronicles 27:16, 22 - Furthermore over the tribes of Israel: the ruler of the Reubenites *was* Eliezer the son of Zichri: of the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maachah: 1Chron. 27:22 Of Dan, Azareel the son of Jeroham. These were the princes of the tribes of Israel.

Isaiah 32:1 - Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

Matthew 19:27-28 - Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? 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.

*The Apostles represented the **12** tribes of Israel. That's why there were 12 apostles.

3. In Matthew 10, you have the King and His 12 apostles (**princes**) that go out with Him to preach the kingdom of heaven message. And to prove these 12 were **true** princes over the tribes, He gives them authority and power over devils and diseases - giving **signs** to the Jews. They would see that **God** was in their ministry.

Exodus 15:26 - And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

C. Matthew 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: Matt. 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

1. This is the **first** commission given them. It is a **limited and local one**, until a fuller commission is given to them after His resurrection (Matt. 28:18-20).
2. Going to the Jewish people **first** was only a means to the end. It was not the end in itself. They were to go to Israel first because the favored children (Israelites) **must first be filled**.

Mark 7:27 - But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* unto the dogs.

* Only then could the Gentiles be **fed** (or be saved). Remember, under the covenants, Israel was ***superior** in God's sight and the Gentiles were still **subordinate**. Pentecost shows this! How?

3. So here the 12 are sent to the nation of Israel **exclusively**. Why doesn't **most** of Christendom believe this?

Matthew 15:24 - But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- a. *Understand, Israel was under the Abrahamic Covenant that **all** could be blessed - "In thy seed". If Israel would get right with God, then the world (Gentiles) would be ready for harvest. This was supposed to begin at Pentecost, but as we know Israel said **no!**

Genesis 12:3 - And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

- b. But we also know that the lost sheep of the house of Israel **will** be gathered together in faith by God.

Ezekiel 34:11-13, 15-16 - For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. Eze. 34:12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. Eze. 34:13 And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country. Eze. 34:15 I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. Eze. 34:16 I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

D. Matthew 10:7 - And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

1. As they went, their message was **totally** Jewish and prophetic. The kingdom of heaven was their promised literal kingdom on **earth**, where Christ will reign. When He is in charge, it will be **heaven** on earth.

Deuteronomy 11:21 - That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

2. [is at hand.] This means the kingdom was close-**near**, not far away. If Israel had believed that Jesus was the Christ-the Messiah, they would have had only **7** years (Tribulation) before Christ's return to earth to set up the kingdom (1000-year reign). Remember, Israel had been scattered and waiting for **hundreds** of years for Messiah. Knowing it would only be 7 years meant it was at hand-near.
 - a. Remember history, Israel was **near** their promised land. Would they trust the 10 spies who gave them a **bad** report, or believe Joshua and Caleb - who said God promised they would have the land. The nation's decision to not believe at Kadesh-Barnea caused God to judge them by keeping Israel **from** their promised land for another **40** years!
 - b. Likewise, as these believers are preparing themselves to offer the kingdom to the nation Israel (Acts 2-7), the kingdom was at hand-**near** if they would believe that Jesus was the Christ-Messiah. The nation was so close to the kingdom happening. But as we now know, Israel would not believe. As He did at Kadesh-Barnea, God in Acts 7 judged Israel and **delayed** her entrance into their promised kingdom. So far, it has been **2000+** years.

E. Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

*They were to use their new apostleship authority with miraculous powers for the **first** time. Doing miracles and having power over physical infirmities and evil spirits would be their **credentials**. This indicated they were speaking for the King-Messiah in His **absence**.

II Corinthians 12:12 - Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Hebrews 2:3-4 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him: Heb. 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

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

1. As they go, they were not to take up **collections** for their provisions. They were to trust God and those who would open up their houses to them. Today within Christendom?
2. They weren't to lay up any provisions for their future - journey.

- a. One - this could **prepare** them for the upcoming Tribulation where most will be on the **run**.
 - b. Two - Jesus wanted them to **learn** to trust Him with providing their needs.
3. These Jewish people had a history of God providing for them. When the Israelites came out of Egypt and went into the wilderness for 40 years, they did not need anyone to give them food - water - clothes - or shoes. **God** provided for their every need!
 4. Interestingly, a **change** would happen because Christ was to leave them and not be there. Until the Spirit came, they would need some money and swords to **protect** themselves. In Luke, Jesus says [But now].

Luke 22:33-36, 38 - And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. Luke 22:36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take *it*, and likewise *his* scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. Luke 22:38 And they said, Lord, behold, here *are* two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.

*But after the Holy Spirit came, for a **whole** year (Acts 3-7), they needed nothing once again.

G. Matthew 10:11-14 - And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. Matt. 10:12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. Matt. 10:13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. Matt. 10:14 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.

1. If the people would receive their message, the 12 would be **invited** in and the homeowner would believe in the message. This was the **acid** test. The people who were willing to pay a price to open their house were the worthy ones. They would allow the pair to stay in their house that night and make **provision** for the pair.

Matthew 10:40 -He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

2. But if the Jewish people of that city would not accept the pair's greeting in Christ's name, the disciples were to judge that house as unworthy and **leave**.

Note: We see here a probation, a test, to prove whether Jews would support the messengers. True believers support the truth regardless of the **cost**.

*Also important is that the apostles were not instructed to start or establish churches.

The temple was **still the place of worship.

H. Matthew 10:15 - Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

1. There is a spirit of judgment associated with these apostles. If the Jewish households **refused** the 12's message, there was a judgment that **fell** on them. Their unbelief demonstrated their rejection of Christ and truth and their failure of the test.

2. [more tolerable] The opposite is less tolerable, indicating **degrees** of punishment for sin. Apostate Israel had more light and more opportunity than Sodom and Gomorrah ever did. That will **cost** these unbelieving Jews at the white throne judgment.

Mark 12:40 - Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.

*There will be equity in God's justice when He **balances** the books.

In verses 1-15, Christ tells the 12 **what to do. Now in verses 16-23, He **warns** them of the reception they would receive. But Christ's prophecy goes **beyond** the immediate Galilean ministry to the post-resurrection ministry of Acts 2-7.

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

1. Who are the sheep? It is the Little Flock of Jewish **believers**.

John 10:27-28 - My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

Matthew 25:33-34, 41 - And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
Matt. 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: Matt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

2. Who are the wolves? They are the **false** teachers

Matthew 7:15 - Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. (Also, the religious leaders of Israel.)