

Matthew 10:1-4: And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: 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 tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Intro: Last week we saw a summary of what Jesus has been doing so far in Matthew's Gospel (a ministry of teaching & preaching & healing & casting out demons), & a command to pray for more laborers to give themselves to the work of spreading the Gospel. This was in anticipation of Jesus sending out His disciples which we see this week: He sends His disciples out to do what He's been doing. Common men; Diverse gifts/personality

1. Jesus Called His Twelve Disciples

Matthew 10:1: And he called to him his twelve disciples (Jesus called for prayer & now He acts! Sends workers!)

a. These men had already been with Jesus, learning from His example and teaching: Ligon Duncan: these men had been with Him for some months. He had called them to be with Him, to follow Him, to learn from Him . . . to be His disciples. Now, He sends them out as messengers, heralds, angels, His own representatives . . . These men knew the Lord Jesus, they had intimate access to Him, & they had fellowship with Him, the opportunity to commune with Him, to eat with Him, to ask Him questions, to watch how He lived. These were the men that the Lord Jesus would send into the field of labor. It was a time of probation, of testing, a time to see how they would do under the pressures of ministry. A time to prepare them for the ministry they would have, that the Lord Jesus had given them. The Lord Jesus never sends anyone into the field of ministry that He does not first, in some measure, equip and prepare for that ministry, and it is one of the tragedies of the church today, that so many are sent into the fields of labor with no preparation, tangible or experiential. The Lord prepares these men in two ways. First, by taking them to be with Him, and secondly, by teaching them. There were many who heard the Lord Jesus' teaching, and these men heard that public teaching as well, but the Lord Jesus also offered them private opportunities for teaching. He taught them, they learned from Him. Before you can be a teacher, you first have to sit at the feet of a master. Before you can be a teacher, you first must be a learner. And so these men had learned at the feet of the Master. But more important than the teaching, even, was the very presence that they had with Christ, the fellowship they had with Christ. Matthew Henry once said, "The best preparation for the work of the ministry, is acquaintance and communion with the Lord Jesus Christ."

- **Acts 4:13:** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

- **Lloyd-Jones:** May we all learn the lesson of this old incident. Let us meet with this Jesus and listen to Him, and soon we, too, will become phenomena. We will become men and women who are enigmas to everybody else.

b. Jesus called: John 15:16: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide

c. Jesus called twelve disciples: Twelve is an important number. Even when Judas was lost, another apostle had to be chosen to replace him so there would be twelve. The twelve connects them to the twelve patriarchs – the twelve sons of Jacob – the twelve tribes of Israel. This points to the continuity of God's people and the fulfillment of all that God meant for His people to be in the church: 12 patriarchs=foundation; 12 apostles=foundation

Revelation 21:10-14: And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed - ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The twelve point to the fact that Jesus has established us as the new people of God, with the twelve apostles as the foundation, and Jesus Christ as the Chief Corner Stone. And we should strive to live like it:

1 Peter 2:9-12: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

2. Jesus Gave His Twelve Disciples Authority

Matthew 10:1: And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

a. Jesus gave them authority to cast out unclean spirits: Jesus came doing this, and now in His power and authority His disciples would do this.

b. Jesus gave them authority to heal every disease and every affliction: Jesus came doing this, and now in His power and authority His disciples would do this. (**Dorians:** "Soon-trained" and "Well-fed" Christians)

This is the commissioning of Jesus' disciples to be sent out as apostles! Apostle means one who is sent out.

3. Jesus' Twelve Apostles

Matthew 10:2-4: The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, & Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, & John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas & Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, & Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, & Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

James Boice: a. Simon, who is called Peter: Peter is always first on the list of every disciple list (Judas is always last). Here, "first" is even in the text. Peter is the first among equals. He is the leader of the disciples. **Boice:** We are told more about Peter in the New Testament than about any other apostle. (Walks on water; Tells Jesus he won't wash his feet; Preaches the Pentecost sermon where thousands are saved)

(1) Low Points: Jesus called him Satan: Matthew 16:21-23: From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Peter denied Jesus: Three times with swearing and cursing – but he was there in the middle of things – others ran!

Peter's conduct was not in step with the truth of the Gospel: Galatians 2:11-16: But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that **their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?" ¹⁵ We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

(2) High Points: Peter sinned a lot, but Peter repented a lot!

Tim Keller: The strongest Christians are the ones most willing to repent. **GOSPEL!**

Matthew 16:13-18: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do

people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

(3) Peter was not the first Pope: Jonathan Leeman: How will he build it? He will build it "on this rock." What rock? Theologians have long debated whether the rock is Peter or Peter's confession. In fact, I think you have to say both. Theologian Edmund Clowney writes, "The confession cannot be separated from Peter, neither can Peter be separated from his confession." Jesus will build his church not on words, and not on people, but on people who believe the right gospel words. Jesus will build the church on confessors. Jesus then gave Peter and the apostles the keys of the kingdom, which gave Peter the authority to do what Jesus had just done with him: to act as God's official representative on earth for affirming true gospel confessions and confessors. The apostles had heaven's authority for declaring who on earth is a kingdom citizen and therefore represents heaven.

Notice Leeman writes: Jesus then gave Peter and the apostles the keys of the kingdom: **Matthew 18:1:** At that time the disciples came to Jesus . . . **Matthew 18:18:** Truly, I say to you [plural], whatever you bind [plural] on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose [plural] on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Now, the Church is the final authority under Christ to bind and loose on earth: **Matthew 18:17:** If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

Ed Clowney writes that Peter cannot be isolated from the eleven: Jesus grants to them all the power of the keys of the kingdom that he gave to Peter. The church is not built on Peter as an isolated stone, but upon the foundation of the apostles & prophets, those who, like Peter, have received the revelation of Christ: **Eph. 2:19-20:** the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles & prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone

- **Call no man pope: Mat 23:9:** And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.

- **Peter was rebuked by Paul because his conduct was not in step with the Gospel: Galatians 2:11-14**

- **God never gave Peter the position of pope: 1 Corinthians 12:28:** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers . . .

- **Peter was married: 1 Corinthians 9:5:** Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

- **Peter viewed himself as an elder like other elders: 1 Peter 5:1-2:** So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you

b. Andrew: Andrew is Peter's brother. They were both fishermen. Andrew actually brought Peter to Jesus:

John 1:40-42: One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter) [Peter-Greek; Cephas-Aramaic]. **(We don't know much about Andrew)**

Dale Ralph Davis: It is particularly the glory of God to save by instruments unknown or scarcely known to us . . . We don't know anything about Shamgar and yet he saved God's people. There is something marvelous about a God like that, something that compels us to bow down before the One Who uses Shamgars and ox-goats.

Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf . . . was German, born in 1700, who founded a community of earnest Christians called Herrnhut ("The Lord's Watch"). The community became part of the Moravian Church and was best known for its unparalleled missionary zeal - "Preach the Gospel, die and be forgotten."

Jeremiah 45:5: And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not . . .

c. James: A fisherman; John's brother; They were called by Jesus "sons of thunder" **Boice:** Probably because of their intense and vehement personalities. James was the first of the apostles to be killed for Jesus' sake:

Acts 12:1-2: About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword

d. John: A fisherman; James' brother; Wrote 5 books in the New Testament: Gospel; 3 Epistles; Revelation

Peter, James, and John: Jesus' inner circle of three; took only them to certain healings; Mount of Transfiguration; Gethsemane to pray. (It's not wrong to have close friends; It's not wrong to single people out for ministry)

e. Philip and Bartholomew (Many think Nathanael and Bartholomew are the same person): John 1:43-49: The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

f. Thomas: Thomas is also called Didymus, which means a twin. The Doubter: **John 20:24-29:** Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, & place my finger into the mark of the nails, & place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, & Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came & stood among them & said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, & see my hands; & put out your hand, & place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord & my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen & yet have believed."

g. Matthew: The tax collector: **Boice:** This calls attention to the dishonorable business that had occupied him before Jesus' call. His words are probably a humble acknowledgment of God's grace to him. The other Gospels contain no such allusion.

h. James: We're told he is the son of Alphaeus, which distinguishes him from James the son of Zebedee.

i. Thaddaeus: Thaddaeus is also called Judas, son of James (Luke 6:16, Acts 1:13)

j. Simon the Cananaean: Cananaean is the Aramaic word for "zealot". He may have been an anti-government revolutionary who wanted to overthrow Roman rule and uphold Jewish practices and culture.

Nathaniel Williams: They were unlikely friends. One man had betrayed his family and culture to work for the corrupt, overbearing government they despised. His old friends now counted him among the thieves and murderers. They even refused to worship with him. His associate was part of an anti-government movement. This occasionally militant group aspired to wage war against the government and return to the glory days when their culture and religion ruled . . . But this is no made up story. This is the true story of Matthew the tax collector and Simon the zealot, two of Jesus' twelve disciples. Matthew and Simon could not have been more different. In his old career, Matthew worked a well-paying job as a tax collector for the Roman government his Jewish peers despised. Simon the zealot was a Jewish nationalist who strongly upheld Jewish traditions and culture. Matthew had worked for the government; Simon wanted to burn it down. An Occupy Wall Street protestor and a Tea Party patriot would have more in common than these two. But Jesus called both of them, along with ten other underqualified disciples. And for the better part of three years, they spent every day beside each other. Together, they learned at Jesus' feet. Together, they huddled in a crowded fishing boat as Jesus calmed stormy seas. Together,

they watched Jesus cure lepers, give sight to the blind, cast out demons, and raise the dead. Together, they heard Jesus teach with life-changing power and authority. Together, they saw him unjustly arrested, tried, beaten to a pulp, and nailed to a cross. And together they witnessed him after he rose from the grave, nail-scarred hands and all. So while Matthew and Simon had starkly different pasts, I imagine they learned to get along and minister together – not because they completely agreed on every political matter, but because **the Jesus they had in common was more important than the politics [or anything else!] that sought to divide them.**

k. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him: Iscariot: his father's name; May indicate the region where he's from; or his occupation – dyer of cloth; He was the treasurer, but stole from the money treasury; he betrayed Jesus – **warning!**

Ligon Duncan: Bad ministers do not disprove the Gospel. Even in Jesus' inner circle, there is a Judas, and it is not a disproof of Jesus, in fact, it's the opposite. In the early church, critics of Christianity used to say to the early church fathers, "You teach falsehood because there are ministers who are scoundrels and hucksters in your midst, and there are hypocrites within your ranks." And the early church fathers used to respond like this, "No, the fact that there are false shepherds, far from being a disproof of Christianity, is a proof of its truth, because the Lord Jesus told us there would be false prophets and wolves in sheep's clothing coming up even in our ranks, and so every time we see a false minister, it is proof that the words of Jesus are true." And so Irenaeus and Tertullian and Origen responded to the atheists of their own day. Now we too face that kind of challenge. We live in a day in which many scandals have hit the church, and many great ministers, not simply those who were showmen, but great ministers have fallen morally, and it's discouraging, but this is not a disproof of Christ, of Christianity, of the Gospel. In fact, it's proof. If it didn't happen, the Lord Jesus would have been wrong, but He told us a long, long time ago, to be prepared. Bad ministers are not a disproof of the Gospel.

The lives of these twelve men point to the greatness of Jesus: William Hendriksen: What points up the greatness of Jesus is that he took such men as these, and welded them into an amazingly influential community that would prove to be not only a worthy link with Israel's past but also a solid foundation for the church's future. Yes, he accomplished this multiple miracle with such men as these, with all their faults and foibles. Even when we leave out Judas Iscariot and concentrate only on the others, we cannot fail to be impressed with the majesty of the Savior, whose drawing power, incomparable wisdom, and matchless love were so astounding that he was able to gather around himself and to unite into one family men of entirely different, at times even opposite backgrounds and temperaments. Included in this little band was Peter the optimist, but also Thomas the pessimist; Simon the one-time Zealot, hating taxes and eager to overthrow the Roman government, but also Matthew, who had voluntarily offered his tax collecting services to that same Roman government. Peter, John, and Matthew, destined to become renowned through their writings, but also James the Less, who remains obscure but must have fulfilled his mission.

Jesus is faithful, even when we are unfaithful: Author: They failed to understand. They received Jesus' strong rebuke in [Mark] 8:14-21, where [Jesus] openly suspects them of hard hearts, unperceiving eyes, & stopped ears. They lacked faith. They responded to Jesus' second & third death predictions with remarkable insensitivity: by competing with each other for glory & spiritual honors. Jesus' steady loyalty to his disciples in return will encourage our reader. In Mark 14, the disciples failed completely in the very self-denying obedience that Jesus made essential for eternal life . . . for in Mark 14 Peter denied Jesus, & the rest abandoned Jesus, all in order to save their own lives. Yet throughout this increasing failure by the disciples, Jesus remained faithful to them.

Christ Jesus Is The God Who Gave
Authority To Heal And Waive
All Disease And Demon Knave
To His Disciples Called And Brave
They'd Preach The Kingdom That We Crave
Yet When Time Came To Die And Save
They Fled And Under Pressure Cave
To Fear And Sin They Were A Slave

But Christ Rose Up And Crushed The Grave
By Faith Alone We're Freed His Slave
For He's The One Who's Truly Brave
He Died And Everything He Gave
Then Rose A Path To Glory Pave
So He Alone We Love And Crave
Oh Praise His Name Who Came To Save!