

Matthew 10:5-15: These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles & enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it & stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom & Gomorrah than for that town.

Intro: Last week we saw Jesus send His apostles out to do what He's been doing. Common men; Diverse gifts/personalities; Sinners; weak men; But it's not the instrument that's important; it's the artist that matters! God used them! Jesus gives them instructions before they go out. He's been instructing them, but He tells them more! Some of these instructions are for those specific apostles for that specific time and short-term mission (only go to Israel; miracles; provisions). But all of these instructions teach us something about what Jesus calls us to do today!

1. Jesus Commands His Apostles To Go To A Specific People

Matthew 10:5-6: These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles & enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

a. The apostles weren't ready for ministry to Gentiles & Samaritans: They needed growth; Start at home

b. God's plan was that the ministry of Jesus and of His apostles be focused primarily on Israel first: Jesus' ministry was focused on the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and so would the ministry of His apostles.

c. Israel had the priority when it came to preaching the Gospel: Romans 9:4-5: They are Israelites, & to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, & the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, & from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

Douglas Moo: Paul insists that the promises of God realized in the Gospel are "first of all" for the Jew. To Israel the promises were first given, & to the Jews they still particularly apply. Without in any way subtracting from the equal access that all people now have to the Gospel, then, Paul insists that the Gospel, "promised beforehand . . . in the holy Scriptures" (Romans 1:2) has a special relevance to the Jew.

D. A. Carson: Jesus stood at the [center & link between the O.C. & the N.C.] in salvation history where as a Jew & the Son of David he came in fulfillment of his people's history as their King & Redeemer. Yet his personal claims would offend so many of his own people that he would be rejected by all but a faithful remnant. Why increase their opposition by devoting time to a Gentile ministry? His mission, as predicted, was worldwide in its ultimate aims . . . & all along he warned that being a Jew was not enough. But his own people must not be excluded because premature offense could be taken at such broad perspectives. Therefore Jesus restricted his own ministry primarily (15:24), though not exclusively (8:1-13; 15:21-39) to Jews. He himself was sent as their Messiah. The messianic people of God developed out of the Jewish remnant & expanded to include Gentiles.

2. Jesus Commands His Apostles To Proclaim A Specific Message

Matthew 10:7: And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Matthew 4:17: From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Some argue this Gospel of the Kingdom message is different from the Gospel of Jesus Christ & Him crucified.

- **Matthew 16:21:** 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. **(17:23; 20:19)**
- **Matthew 21:37-39, 42-43:** Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.'
³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him . . .⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes"?⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.

Pastor: What's amazing is how much the Gospels focus on . . . Jesus' final week. A third of the Gospels are devoted to it. Here's the breakdown and statistics from chapter one of Andy Naselli's book *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament*: A third of Matthew, from Matthew 21-28; A third of Mark, from Mark 11-16; A quarter of Luke, from Luke 19-24; Nearly half of John, from John 12-20; As one can see above the Gospel of John is the most concentrated upon the last week of Jesus. Furthermore, nearly a third of the Gospel of John is dedicated to one day, from John 13-19. What about a breakdown according to the total chapters of the Gospels? There are a total of 89 chapters from all four Gospels. Of those chapters, 29 are on the final week. Again, we see that it is a third of the Gospels. These statistics led Andy Naselli to say "The Gospels are essentially passion narratives with extended introductions."

- **Matthew 24:14:** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
- **Acts 2:22-24, 36:** Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works & wonders & signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know - this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified & killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it . . .³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord & Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.
- **Colossians 1:13-14:** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- **Revelation 5:9-10:** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."
- **1 Corinthians 2:2:** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **GOSPEL!**

3. Jesus Commands His Apostles To Perform Specific Miracles

Matthew 10:8: Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

David Platt: Go to the sick, not the well; Go to the dead; Go to the dirty, the outcast, the untouchables; Go to the oppressed – those captive to demons.

a. Jesus' apostles performed miracles by His authority: These are all miraculous activities that Jesus was doing, & now He gives His apostles authority to do these same miracles: authenticating their message! Sickness, death, skin diseases, & demonic possession & oppression are in the world because sin had entered the world, and Jesus came to totally & fully fix everything that had been messed up by sin! And so His apostles go & do likewise!

b. Jesus' ministry and the apostles' ministry was a unique ministry: There are periods in Bible history where you have these kinds of miraculous signs happening in great abundance but much of the Bible you read and don't see these kinds of miracles. The time of great miracles are often periods of great revelation: Creation; Moses; Prophets: Elijah and Elisha; Jesus and the apostles. God uses miracles to lay the foundations of things!

- **Ephesians 2:19-20:** you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone

c. **Jesus' apostles freely received so they must freely give: V. 8:** You received without paying; give without pay.

- **1 Corinthians 4:7:** What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

- **Philippians 1:29:** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake

- **2 Timothy 2:25:** correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth

- **Romans 4:5:** And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness

4. Jesus Commands His Apostles To Be Content And Cared For

Matthew 10:9-10: Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, **for the laborer deserves his food.**

a. **Jesus commands His apostles not to pursue wealth and riches:** Ministers of the Gospel cannot be in it for the money! **1 Timothy 3:3:** not a lover of money; **1 Timothy 6:9-11:** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

Do not be like Joel Osteen, T. D. Jakes, Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyer, & Benny Hinn! (Costi)

b. **Jesus commands His apostles to be cared for:** Those who receive their ministry should provide for their needs.

- **Galatians 6:6:** One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches.

- **1 Corinthians 9:14:** In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

- **1 Timothy 5:17-18:** Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, **"The laborer deserves his wages."**

Mark Dever: This last quotation is found only in Jesus' teaching here in Matthew 10. By the time Paul is writing this letter [1 Timothy] in early 60s AD, Matthew's Gospel exists and has circulated and is known and Paul is even, in a way that seems to assume it's uncontroversial, referring to it as Scripture!

5. Jesus Commands His Apostles To Extend Peace To Those Who Are Worthy

Matthew 10:11-13: And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it & stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Give those who will listen and receive this glorious message of the Gospel of the Kingdom a blessing of peace and encouragement! And don't go from house to house, looking for the nicest and best accommodations!

D. A. Carson: To settle into the house of a "worthy" person implies that the disciples were not to shop around for the most comfortable quarters. Here "worthy" probably does not refer to a morally upright, honorable, or religious person but to one willing and able to receive an apostle of Jesus and the gospel of the kingdom – the opposite of "dogs" and "pigs: (7:6). As the disciples entered the house, they were to give it their "greeting." Luke (10:5) gives us the actual words: "Peace to this house." . . . the greeting prepares for v.13: "As you enter the home," you are to give the normal greeting; but if the home turns out to be "unworthy" . . . contrary to what you have been led to believe, then let your greeting of peace return to you . . . don't stay. The Twelve were emissaries [representatives]

of Jesus. Those who received them received him. Their greeting was of real value because of their relationship to him. Loss of their greeting was loss of their presence and therefore loss of Jesus. Potiphar's household was blessed because of Joseph's presence. How much more those homes that harbored the apostles of the Messiah! **(You!)**

6. Jesus Commands His Apostles To Pronounce Judgment On Those Who Will Not Receive His Message

Matthew 10:14-15: And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom & Gomorrah than for that town.

a. If people don't receive you or listen to your message, shake the dust off your feet: This is what Israelites would do if they walked on Gentile soil – before they came back to Israel, they would shake the dirty, pagan dust off of their feet. This was a sign of judgment: you hard-hearted Israelites will be condemned just like pagans!

b. With great knowledge comes great responsibility: S&G were very wicked; Not as much revealed; Great hell!

J. C. Ryle: Men are apt to forget that it does not require great open sins to be sinned in order to ruin a soul forever. They have only to go on hearing without believing, listening without repenting going to church without going to Christ, and by and by they will find themselves in hell! We shall all be judged according to our light; we shall have to give account of our use of religious privileges: to hear of the "great salvation," and yet neglect it, is one of the worst sins man can commit.

Dever: Rejecting this news, the news that the Kingdom of God is at hand, is a far worse sin than whatever the sins were that overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. Rejecting Jesus is the most direct rejection of God there is.

Story: At 3 A.M. on a cold, winter morning, a missionary candidate walked into an office for an appointment with the examiner of a mission board. The examiner had told him to report at 3 A.M. in the morning. The examiner arrived at 8 A.M., five hours later. The examiner, without saying a word of explanation for his lateness, sat down and said, "Let's begin. You want to be a missionary with this mission agency. I'm going to ask you some questions. First, please spell baker." "B-A-K-E-R," the young man said. "Very good. Now, let me see how much you know about figures. How much is 2 plus 2?" "4," he said. "Excellent. I'm going to recommend to the board tomorrow that you be appointed as a missionary. You have passed the test." And he left. At the board meeting, the examiner spoke so highly of the applicant, "One of the finest young men that we've seen as of yet. He has all the qualifications of a missionary. First," he said, "I tested him on self-denial. I told him to be at my house at 3 A.M. in the morning in the cold. He left a warm bed and came out in the cold and never had a word of complaint. "Secondly, I tested him on punctuality, and he was there on time. Thirdly, I examined him on patience. I made him wait five hours to see me, and he didn't even question why I was late. Fourth, I tested him on his anger and temper, and he didn't show any sign of anger after all I put him through. Fifth, I tested his humility by asking him questions that a little child could answer, and he showed no offense. He meets the requirements."

Pastor: Patience. Humility. Punctuality [Self-Control], which demonstrates that you care for somebody else, that you wouldn't make them waste their time and wait for you. **Sacrifice**, that you'd go out in the middle of the night. Those are the things that God can use to make a man into what He wants him to be. He made these 12, and He gave them the principles for their mission. May we be so effective as they. **[Love] – Jesus Christ!**

Christ Jesus Taught, Prepared, And Sent
His Loved Apostles Out They Went
To The Lost Of Israel's Tent
They'd Preach And Heal In Love Be Spent
Raise The Dead And Be Content
If Well Received Their Peace Present
If Not Received With Dust Dissent
They'll Face Unbearable Torment
Hallelujah! Christ Was Sent

To Save From This Awful Judgment
He Died And Rose With Full Intent
To End All Death With Its Lament
By Faith Alone Please Trust, Repent
To His Commands Give Full Consent
In Him The Joys Won't Relent
He Is Enough Your Praises Vent
For He's Our Everything Event!