

Matthew 10:1-15

- **REVIEW...**
 - **FIRST** - The Presentation of the King – **Matthew 1-7**
 - **SECOND** – The Ministry of the King – **Matthew 8-18**
 - Impossible Faith...
 - Jesus was still having dinner at the house of Matthew [tax collector]
 - When Jairus - the ruler of the synagogue - asked him to come and heal his daughter [TWELVE]
 - On the way a woman - sick for TWELVE years - was healed by touching his clothing...
 - When they came to the house of Jairus - He took the girl by the hand and she was resurrected!
 - Persistent Faith...
 - Coming out of the house - TWO blind men called out to Jesus to heal them [Son of David]
 - He asked if they believed if He had the power - they said - Yes Lord...
 - According to their FAITH [not words] - Jesus healed them!
 - Silent Faith...
 - Jesus cast put a demon from a man who was DUMB - demon had kept him from HEARING...
 - But the PHARISEES said Jesus cast out the demon - by the power of satan...
 - When Jesus saw the people did NOT have good shepherds - it broke His heart...
 - He told His DISCIPLES - to pray the Lord would send out LABORERS into His HARVEST!
- **1ST – INTO THE HARVEST... vs. 1-4**
 - 1st - Twelve men... vs. 1
 - All night in Prayer...
 - **Luke 6:12** - "[Jesus] went to the mountain to pray - and continued all night in prayer to God."
 - Jesus had just finished saying - PRAY the Lord send workers into His HARVEST...
 - And the very next thing He did - was PRAY who to send to reach the LOST...
 - Multitudes had come to hear Jesus - and a growing number of DISCIPLES followed Him...
 - But by PRAYER - from the among the many DISCIPLES - He choose TWELVE...
 - Listed FOUR times in the New Testament - **Mark 3:13-19** - **Luke 6:12-16** - **Acts 1:13**
 - Often people make MAJOR decisions - WITHOUT taking the time to PRAY...
 - But the truth is we have no IDEA what tomorrow holds...
 - Therefore we are WISE to ask the only one who SEES the FUTURE!
 - **Proverbs 3:5** - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart - lean not on your own understanding."
 - Why Twelve...
 - When He had called His twelve disciples to Him!
 - One would assume if Jesus wanted to spread the GOSPEL - He would send LOTS of people...
 - And Jesus did send more than TWELVE into the HARVEST - [the SEVENTY] - **Luke 10:1**
 - But these TWELVE were SPECIAL - they would also become LEADERS in the CHURCH!
 - TWELVE is a number we see used to represent the GOVERNMENT of God...
 - There were TWELVE tribes in the nation of Israel - **Genesis 49:28**
 - TWENTY four ELDERS [Tribes and Apostles] before the throne of God - **Revelation 4:4**
 - These TWELVE men will be the PILLARS of the New Jerusalem - **Revelation 21:14**
 - Authority...
 - He gave them [authority] over unclean spirits - to cast them out.
 - And to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease!
 - The TWELVE had SEEN Jesus do the impossible...
 - They had SEEN Him cast demons [legion] out of men - **Matthew 8:32**
 - They had SEEN Him heal incurable diseases [lepper]- **Matthew 8:3**

- They had SEEN Him heal the paralytic - the blind - the dumb...
 - They had SEEN Him raise the dead [daughter of Jairus] - **Matthew 9:25**
 - There was NO question He had AUTHORITY [ἐξουσία] over demons and ALL [πᾶς] sickness...
 - And now He was giving that same AUTHORITY to the TWELVE!
 - **John 14:12** - "Anyone who believes in me will do the same works... and even greater works."
 - Because God is the one who SENDS us - we go out in His AUTHORITY...
 - Meaning we also will have POWER over demons - and ALL kinds of SICKNESS...
 - But we will NOT only do what Jesus did - we will do GREATER things...
 - What could be greater than healing - casting out demons - raising the dead...
 - If we HEAL people will get sick again - if we RAISE the dead they DIE again one day...
 - The GREATER work is giving the GOSPEL – bringing eternal LIFE that never fades away!
- o 2nd - The Apostles... vs. 2-4
- Sent out...
 - Now the names of the twelve apostles are these:
 - This is the FRIST time the word APOSTLE is used in the NEW Testament...
 - The TITLE of Apostle is one that tends to cause confusion...
 - Some see it as the HIGHEST authority within the church - **Ephesians 4:11**
 - But the word - APOSTLE [ἀπόστολος] - simple means one who is SENT out!
 - It is a picture of an AMBASSADOR - a representative of God to the world...
 - EVERYTHING we have SEEN Jesus do in our lives – we are called to go tell EVERYONE...
 - We might think that we will NEVER be an APOSTLE – but we are all SENT out!
 - **II Corinthians 5:20** – “We are ambassadors for Christ...”
 - Their Names ...
 - **Simon Peter** – Simeon [Σίμων] means to HEAR - but Peter [πρωτος] means ROCK [hard head]
 - **Andrew** – [Ἀνδρέας] - MANLY or macho [he was the brother of Peter]
 - **James** – [Ἰάκωβος] from Hebrew Jacob - meaning heal catcher [brother of John]
 - **John** – [Ἰωάννης] meaning God is [ἡ] gracious [James and John were the sons of Zebedee]
 - **Philip** – [Φίλιππος] - LOVER of horses [from Bethsaida – friend of Nathaniel]
 - **Bartholomew** - SON of [ἡ] giant [surname] - given name was Nathaniel - **John 1:45**
 - **Thomas** – [Θωμάς] TWIN - best known for doubting the resurrection of Jesus - **John 20:25**
 - **Matthew** – [Μαθθαῖος] GIFT of Yahweh [tax collector from Capernaum]
 - **James** - [Ἰάκωβος] the son of Alpheus – brother of Matthew [Levi] - **Mark 2:14**
 - **Lebbaeus** or Thaddaeus - BIG heart [surname] - given name was Judas [brother of James]
 - **Simeon** - the Canaanite [ἡ] or Zealot [ζηλωτής] - wanted to overthrow Roman rule
 - **Judas** Iscariot [man of the city] – the one who would ultimately betray Jesus!
 - There are FOUR things that HIT me looking at this list!
 - The Three...
 - FIRST - Peter - James - and John were with Jesus even when NO one else was...
 - Jesus resurrects the little girl – **Matthew 9:25** - Mount of Transfiguration – **Matthew 17:1**
 - Only they went with Jesus when He prayed in Gethsemane – **Matthew 26:37**
 - This leads us to believe these disciples were SPECIAL – SUPER disciples...
 - Especially when we consider how God used Peter and John in the book of Acts!
 - Yet when we look closer at their lives - they were a MESS...
 - Peter was the only APOSTLE to DENY Jesus - and then QUIT the ministry - **John 21:3**
 - James and John were called the Sons of Thunder [not a compliment] - **Mark 3:17**
 - They wanted to call down FIRE on a village that refused to let them enter - **Luke 9:54**
- I do NOT think they were SPECIAL [good] - I think they were SPECIAL [bad]

- If we have kids who always get into TROUBLE – we want them right NEXT to us...
- Jesus kept these men CLOSE – afraid to let them wander too far away!

▪ Relationships...

- SECOND - these men were NOT strangers to each other...
- Brothers: Peter and Andrew - James and John - Matthew with James and Judas...
- Friends: Andrew knew Philip - and Philip knew Nathaniel...
- Only Thomas - Simeon - and Judas Iscariot seem to have no connections to the rest!
- There are over EIGHT billion people in the world - and ALL of them need Jesus...
- Reaching a LOST with the Gospel can seem an overwhelming task...
- But the Gospel often moves along RELATIONAL lines...
- We go out in the HARVEST and by reaching our FAMILIES and FRIENDS!

▪ Ordinary men...

- THIRD - these were NOT the men you would expect God to choose...
- If I was to pick TWELVE men to reach out and change the world...
- I would pick the POLITICIANS [from Rome] - who could make the rules...
- I would pick MOVIE stars [gladiators] - who could influence the most people...
- I would pick PROFESSORS [Socrates] - who could teach others...
- I would pick rich BUSINESS men - who could finance the work!
- But the APOSTLES were from the Galilee - a TINY city in an IRRELEVANT province of Rome...
- They were POOR fishermen - they were UNEDUCATED - **Acts 4:13**
- They had NOTHING that qualified them to CHANGE the world...
- Other than Jesus CHOSE them - and they said YES!
- **I Corinthians 1:27-29** – “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise... that no flesh should glory in His presence.”
- We might be thinking that God could never use us...
- Thinking that we do NOT have the right EDUCATION – we have no MONEY...
- We might think we are only from the PROVINCE – NOT famous or influential...
- But what that means is we are just as qualified as the Apostles were...
- The only question to answer is - do we say YES when God calls us!

● 2ND - SENDING THE TWELVE... vs. 5-9

o 1st - Where to go... vs. 5-6

▪ Two by two...

- Jesus broke up the APOSTLES into SIX groups – He sent them out TWO by TWO - **Mark 6:7**
- There is wisdom in NOT being alone as we step out to serve Jesus...
- Peter had John - Paul had Barnabas [or Silas] - Timothy had Titus!
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** – “Two people can accomplish more than twice as much as one... If one person falls - the other can reach out and help.”
- Having someone who will encourage us – stand beside us in Jesus - is priceless...
- If we have a bad day they can encourage us – if they are hurting we can encourage them...
- If one of us is struggling with sin – the other is there to pray and point back to Jesus!

▪ Only to Israel...

- These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them saying:
- Do not go into the way of the [nations] - and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.
- But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel!
- Jesus SENT [ἀποστέλλω] - verb form of the noun APOSTLE [ἀπόστολος]
- He gave them FOUR commands [παραγγέλλω] as they went out into the HARVEST:
- FIRST - do NOT to go [subjunctive] to the NATIONS [ἔθνος] - or cities of the SAMARITANS...
- Instead GO [imperative] to the LOST [ἀπόλλυμι] sheep of Israel...

- That does NOT mean that the Gospel is ONLY for Israel...
 - It meant the God planned for the Gospel to SPREAD out from Israel...
 - The Church started in Jerusalem - then to Judah - Samaria - and the world - **Acts 1:8**
 - If we are wondering what part of the HARVEST God will send us out into...
 - The answer is all around us - He sends us into our WORK - SCHOOL - NEIGHBORHOOD!
- o 2nd - What to say... vs. 7
- And as you go - preach saying: [Because] the kingdom of heaven is at hand!
 - As they went from place to place - person to person...
 - Then had to [imperative] PREACH [κηρύσσω] the message of the Gospel...
 - Telling people: because the Kingdom of Heaven is CLOSE [not much time]
 - That is why they were HEALING the sick and - RAISING the dead - and CASTING out demons!
 - Our SUN is so big - if hollowed out it could hold 1.3 MILLION earths...
 - But UY Scuti - the largest known star - could hold 5 BILLION suns!
 - Yet they are only a small speck of light in the sky - because they are so very FAR away!
 - **Psalms 34:3** - "Magnify the LORD with me - and let us exalt His name together."
 - God is HUGE - but LOST sinners are very FAR from Jesus - so they cannot SEE Him...
 - Therefore we are called to go PROCLAIM [κηρύσσω] the GOOD news to them...
 - But not just with WORDS - we need to SHOW them the AUTHORITY [ἐξουσία] of God...
 - It is through our lives that we MAGNIFY Jesus so that they can see His LOVE...
 - We get to SHOW them the KINGDOM of God - Jesus in our HEARTS!
 - **Luke 17:21** - "For indeed - the kingdom of God is within you."
- o 3rd - What to do... vs. 8
- Give life...
 - Heal the [weak] - cleanse the lepers - raise the dead - cast out demons.
 - The APOSTLES had to do FOUR things to show the Kingdom of Heaven was CLOSE...
 - HEAL [imperative] - those who were WEAK [ἀσθενέω] - different word from - **Matthew 10:1**
 - CLEANSE [imperative] - the LEPERS - those who were UNCLEAR...
 - WAKE up [imperative] - those who were DEAD [νεκρός]
 - CAST out [imperative] - the demons who were keeping people from the TRUTH...
 - Put together it paints a SPIRITUAL picture of our WORK...
 - Those who are WEAK [sick] - because they are UNCLEAR [lepers] as a result of sin...
 - Spiritually DEAD - blinded by the god of this world - **II Corinthians 4:4**
 - We were to HEAL by sharing the Gospel - that will CLEANSE them of their sin...
 - So they can be RAISED to new LIFE - FREED [cast out] from the bondage of satan!
 - No Charge...
 - Freely you have received - freely give!
 - We did not PAY for our SALVATION - it was a GIFT [δῶρον] of God - **Ephesians 2:8**
 - Therefore we must freely [δωρεάν] GIVE [imperative] the Gospel!
 - Sadly - there are churches and pastors today who put a PRICE on salvation...
 - They greedily present a Gospel where MONEY [tithing] is part of the message...
 - But Paul told the church he would rather DIE than charge for the Gospel - **I Corinthians 9:15**
 - The LAST words of Jesus on the cross were - it is FINISHED - **John 19:30**
 - The PRICE for our SIN was paid - there is NO outstanding balance...
 - Jesus took care of it - and offers EVERYONE the FREE gift of salvation!
- o 4th - What to bring... vs. 9
- Nothing...

- Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts.
- Nor bag for your journey - nor two tunics - nor sandals - nor staffs.
- For a worker is worthy of his food!
- They APOSTLES were NOT [imperative] to take anything with them - **Luke 9:3**
- They were NOT to take and MONEY - spare CLOTHES - or even a walking STICK...
- The reason is because as they worked for GOD - He would provide for their NEEDS!
- Child of the King...
 - There was a missionary named Brother Andrew [Gods smuggler]
 - When he was in Bible college they were told to do a month long evangelistic outreach...
 - One group from the college did lots of fund raising - and they came back in DEBT...
 - But God put spoke to Andrew and asked - are you the son of a PAUPER or KING...
 - The son of a KING does NOT need to go around BEGGING for money - the KING provides...
 - Therefore Andrew asked for nothing - and came back with an ABUNDANCE!
 - Too often in the church money is the focus [tithes plus offerings]
 - The reason - the church is trying to do something that is THEIR idea...
 - If it is OUR idea we have to PAY for it - because it is NOT from God...
 - But if it is from God - then there is NO need to ask - He will PROVIDE!
 - Exodus 36:6 - "Do not [give] any more... We have enough!" [NLT]
- 3RD - SOWING SEED... vs. 10-15
 - o 1st - Worthy house... vs. 11-13
 - Seeking... vs. 11-13
 - Whatever city or town you enter - inquire who in it is worthy - and stay there till you go out.
 - And when you go into a household - greet it.
 - If the household is worthy - let your peace come upon it!
 - Whenever the APOSTLES came into a new city or town - they were to INQUIRE...
 - INQUIRE [imperative] - to SEEK out a HOUSE [people] who were WORTHY...
 - WORTHY - someone who wanted to hear about Jesus...
 - When they found such a HOUSE - they were walk in and GREET [imperative] the people...
 - And if the people were OPEN - then they were to give [imperative] PEACE to them...
 - Ephesians 2:14 - "For [Jesus] is our peace."
 - Leaving... vs. 13
 - But if it is not worthy - let your peace return to you!
 - If the people in the house did NOT want to hear the Gospel - UNWORTHY...
 - Then they were to TAKE back [imperative] the MESSAGE [peace]
 - And move on to the next HOUSE - next TOWN - next CITY!
 - Parable of the SOWER - the SEED was scattered over all types of ground - **Mark 4:3**
 - It was not up to the FARMER to decide where the SEED fell - or to make it GROW!
 - Our JOB is not to make people BELIEVE - we are called to spread the Word [seed]
 - If someone is OPEN to the Gospel - we STAY there and make disciples...
 - But when people chose NOT to listen - we must move on...
 - Just because one person says NO - does not mean the next one might not say YES!
 - o 2nd - Shake the Dust... vs. 14-15
 - Not listening... vs. 14
 - Whoever will not receive you nor hear your words.
 - When you depart from that house or city - shake off the dust from your feet!
 - When someone REJECTS the Gospel - will not LISTEN to the Word...
 - As we LEAVE - we must [imperative] SHAKE their dust off our feet...
 - A dramatic way of saying - even their DUST we REJECT!

- Paul had a deep LOVE for his people - the JEWS...
- But every time he tried to reach them with the GOSPEL - it did not work out...
- In frustration he finally shook of the DUST - and went to the GENTILES!
- **Acts 18:6** - "He shook [off their dust] ...from now on I will go to the Gentiles."
- Just because someone does NOT receive the Gospel - does not mean they are LOST...
- It might just mean that is NOT where God is calling us to PREACH...
- How do we know WHO God has called us to SHARE the Gospel with...
- When people are willing to LISTEN - that is who we are called to reach!
- Sodom and Gomorrah... vs. 15
 - Assuredly - I say to you - it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah...
 - In the day of judgment than for that city!
 - But if someone does NEVER listens to the Gospel - it will NOT end well...
 - AMEN [ἀμήν] - it will be BETTER for Sodom and Gomorrah...
 - These TWO cities are used throughout the Bible as a lesson on CONSEQUENCES...
 - They were wiped out in a SINGLE day [fire and brimstone] - **Genesis 19:24**
 - Destroyed because EVERYTHING they did was WICKED - **Genesis 18:20**
 - But the one thing the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did not do - was REJECT the Gospel...
 - Therefore will be better for them in the Day of Judgment!
 - This is why we GO - this is why we PRAY for the Lord to send laborers...
 - Because there are only TWO destinations - Heaven and Hell...
 - And they only way to get to HEAVEN - is through the message of the Gospel...
 - People have to CHOSE - but we are called to go and give them the CHOICE!
 - **Romans 10:15** - "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace."