

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

MATTHEW 10:1-15

LESSON: DELEGATED AUTHORITY – February 24, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

9:27-38 ¹As Jesus continues to travel, two blind men follow Him and acknowledge Him as the Son of David. These men were persistent as they followed Him into the house where He was staying. Jesus asked them *"Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord."* Jesus touched their eyes and said *"According to your faith be it unto you."* And their eyes came open and Jesus charged them to tell no one. However, they told everyone! And Jesus' fame spread abroad in all that country (9:27-31). As the two blind men left the house a demon possessed man was brought to Jesus and He immediately healed him. The crowd marveled as nothing like this had ever been seen in Israel. However, the Pharisees said that Jesus was casting out devils through the prince of devils, meaning getting His power from Satan (9:28-34). Jesus went from place to place teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. When seeing the multitude of people, he was moved with compassion because they fainted, and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. *"He said to His disciples that the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborious are few."* He told them to *"pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth (more) laborers to his harvest"* (9:35-38).

LESSON: I. A SPECIAL CALLING MATTHEW 10:1-4

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. Some calls are:

- The Call to Salvation
- The Call to Sanctification
- The Call to Service
- The Call to Suffering.

²What does it mean to be *"called into ministry"* or *"called of God?"* In a sense, as Christians we are all called to Christ, to follow and obey Him. ... But, the purpose of a divine call or even a call to minister is not something we create, but something God places within us. Jesus called these 12 disciples. He chose them to be with him. They were called out and chosen from many followers— *"many called; few are chosen!"*

1. The discipleship call. Jesus called them to be learners of Him while following and hearing Him teach.
2. The commitment call. Jesus called them to leave all and begin a period of special training in order to preach and teach.
3. The commissioning call. Jesus called them and authorized them to go forth with the message of Salvation; delegating authority.

With their calling the disciples were given power and authority. The power to heal and cast out demons was given to prove that Christ was truly the Son of God. They were proving it by the power given them.

The prayer spoken of in 9:38 was the beginning of the laborers being sent into the harvest fields.

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-need-for-laborers/>

² <https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&q=types+of+calling+in+the+bible&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjvsa78gMHfAhUPWKOKHTfHC38Q1QJloAHoECAUQAQ&biw=714&bih=55>

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10:2 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;—In the first verse Jesus called unto Him 12 disciples. A *"disciple of Christ"* is first a learner who follows the teacher, and learns right wisdom. Now, we see Jesus names His 12 apostles. *"Apostle"* means to send forth with a commission. There were 12 tribes of Israel. Israel had been the first called to be the people of God. Jesus wanted to reach out to Israel first, before going to the Gentile. Therefore, He wanted an apostle to represent each of the 12 tribes, that is, to equal Jacob's sons. These apostles are now commissioned and given delegated authority to take the message of Jesus Christ's salvation to others!

- Simon, who is called Peter, a fisherman.
- Andrew his brother, a fisherman
- James the son of Zebedee, a fisherman mending nets.
- John his brother, a fisherman mending nets.

10:3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;—Continued with the names...

- Philip, occupation unknown.
- Bartholomew, occupation unknown.
- Thomas, a twin, occupation unknown.
- Matthew the publican; tax collector.
- James the son of Alphaeus, occupation unknown
- Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus, occupation unknown

10:4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. Continued with the names...

- Simon the Canaanite, occupation unknown
- Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Jesus.

II. A SPECIAL MISSION MATTHEW 10:5-8

10:5 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:—Jesus sent the 12 out with instructions: *"Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans."* The reason Jesus commanded this is in the next verse. A *"Gentile"* was anyone who was not a Jew. The *"Samaritans"* were a race that resulted from intermarriage between Jews and Gentiles after the Old Testament captivities.

10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. The reason Jesus commanded the 12 apostles not to go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans was because His initial message was to first go to the Jews. That was Jesus' first assignment—*"to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"*; not the lost sheep of the world. They were lost because their teachers had not adhered to the truth. Israel was God's chosen people, so this would be the apostles' assignment also.

10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Everything was laid out and given to the apostles: the people/place and the message—*"preach saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* They were not to proclaim their own ideas.

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10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. The power to do what was needed was given to them: power to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead. And they were to cast out devils. They were to minister and share freely to the needs of the people, not in their own strength, but in God's given power. Freely as they had received, freely they are to give back. Their power was to confirm that God does love and care for His people!

III. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AND CAUTIONS MATTHEW 10:9-15

10:9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,—The apostles were not to spend their own money on the ministry. They were not to take or provide gold, silver, nor brass in their purses. Instead, trust God for their needs, and by such example it would teach dependency upon God.

10:10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. Also the apostles were not to take a scrip (a leather bag or wallet for carrying food and money when traveling) on their journey, neither two coats, nor shoes or staves (staves) because God's servant or laborer is worthy of being financially supported by the people. As God's people allowed the apostles to give their full time to the ministry, they were to support the Lord's apostles.

10:11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. They were not to seek out the wealthy and leading citizens of a city or town they had entered, but they were to seek out a worthy host and abide there until it's time to move on.

- A worthy host was a person with a good reputation concerning morals.
- A worthy host was a person with a good reputation concerning God—they have a spiritual interest of God.
- A worthy host was a person with a good reputation concerning hospitality—they willingly care for strangers.

10:12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. Again, Jesus tells His apostles how to enter a city or town and even what to do when they enter a house. They are to salute and be courteous to people, not forceful, demanding, forward or ugly. **A salute...**

- **communicates** a friendliness and kindness which encourages an open reception.
- **opens** the door to more conversation which the messenger can turn into a presentation of the gospel.
- **tells** immediately whether a person is receptive or not.

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. If the house was worthy after the salute, then the apostles were able to share peace. The greeting of peace was to be given to every home and place they approached. But, if the house were unworthy, they were to let the salutation return to them, and say nothing else. They were not to continue the message of peace. They were to take the message of peace and leave without sharing it.

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. The Lord's servant must not waste his time. He must discern

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as quickly as possible who is worthy and receptive.

- Are they kind and gracious or cold and hard?
- Are they just shy and bashful or really disinterested?
- Are they truly receptive or just kind and gracious to everyone?
- Are they spiritually sensitive or just interested in religious questions?

If the people rejected the apostles, the apostles were to leave. This would mean that the Lord's message was rejected just as the messenger was rejected. Two things would happen:

1. He was to leave the house or city.
2. He was to shake the dust off his feet. This was to be a symbol
 - a. that they had lost their opportunity.
 - b. their wickedness was so detestable that it polluted the very ground upon which their house or city sat.
 - c. that God would reject them even as they had rejected Him.

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. Sodom and Gomorrha were the two cities destroyed by fire and are said to be suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. It is bad to reject God or His messengers or His message. Sodom and Gomorrha never heard God's Son, but these other cities that do hear, will be worse off in the Day of Judgment!

SUMMARY:

Jesus had called His 12 disciples together and gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. The names of the 12 disciples are given (10:1-4).

Jesus' instructions He sent and commanded the 12 apostles out: *"Don't go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but go to lost sheep of the house of Israel, preaching the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* They were given power to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils. As they had freely received, they were to freely give (10:5-8).

The apostles were not to spend their own money on the ministry. As God's people allowed the apostles to give their full time to the ministry, they were to support them. And into whatsoever city or town they entered, they were to inquire as to whose house was worthy, and abide there till it was time to go. And when they came into a house, they were to salute it. If the house was worthy, then peace would rest there. If the house was unworthy, then peace would return to them. Whosoever did not receive them to hear their message, they were to depart from that house or city, and shake the dust off of their feet. The wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrha will be better off in the Day of Judgment than that city that rejected the message of God's Son (10:9-15).