

“Boot Camp for the Twelve”

Matthew Chapter 10

Jesus was in the process of teaching his disciples. His process is the best method then as it is today.

- Jesus first did the ministry
- Jesus did ministry with the disciples watching
- The disciples did ministry with Jesus watching
- The disciples did the ministry

Chapter 10 Jesus is sending out His 12 disciples. He instructs them as to where to go, what to say, what to do. He also prepares them for the various responses from those they will meet.

Chapter 9:37-38 “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

- Jesus had the disciples pray for the ministry before doing the ministry.

Mat 10:1 1) Who the Apostles Were vs 1-4

Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

- After the disciples pray for laborers the Lord answers the prayers. He calls those who are praying.
 - Possibly there isn't effectual ministry because today's disciples think they will pray after they are called. It works the other way around.
- It is critical to see that Jesus called his 12. This isn't all the disciples. He is calling a select 12.
 - Jesus gives them authority. The Greek word here is “*exousia*” This means legal power or right to give command that must be submitted to. AUTHORITY is a great translation for this word.
 - In Acts 1:8 the church is promised “*dynamis*” This means power, ability or strength to perform. This is not the same as Authority. In Acts the Holy Spirit has the authority. In Matthew we see the 12 have authority.
- These 12 disciples have authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal. This was Jesus authority given to them. It was not something they earned or obtained.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 “*For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.*”
 - The principal of God's calling is still true today. Who He chooses He empowers and equips for that calling.

Mat 10:2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these:

- In verse 2 this is the first and only time Matthew uses the term Apostle.
- Apostle means “one who is sent out”.
 - Paul uses this word in a general sense at times “messenger” (2 Corinthians 8:23-Titus; Romans 16:7-Andronicus and Junias)
 - Paul uses this word in a specific sense for the 12 as well as himself. (1 Corinthians 9:1-5; Galatians 1:17+19)
 - Definitely it is significant that Jesus calls Apostles from the disciples. **You cannot be sent unless you are willing to be taught.**

The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Mat 10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

Mat 10:4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

- There are 4 lists of the 12 Apostles in the Scriptures. Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:13-16, and Acts 1:13
- Peter in every case is first as is Judas Iscariot is last.

Mat 10:5

2) Where the Apostles Were to Go vs 5-6

These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them:

- The disciples became Apostles and they still needed instruction. You will not come to an end of Jesus instruction. Especially if you are a disciple or a messenger.
- Jesus is committed to the agency of man for the furtherance of the gospel message. Surely Jesus is better and reaching the lost. Surely He is more efficient and excellent. So seeing the vast harvest that is ripe He sends men to the harvest.

"Do not go in *the way of the Gentiles*, and do not enter *any city of the Samaritans*;

Mat 10:6

but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- Here we understand that this calling is for a specific time and place. This is a calling and a sending for the 12 at a particular time. For later in Acts 1 the church receives her commission and it is not limited to the lost sheep of Israel.
- Here we see they are NOT to go to the Gentiles or any city of the Samaritans.
 - The sense is that this is training for the apostles. The people group is the easiest group for them to go to. Their own people. Today those of us who are gentile Christians may find it difficult to go to a Jew.
 - The Samaritans were a mixed people between Jew and Gentile and there was great prejudice between them and the Jew. The Apostles would have more issues to deal with in going to these.
 - The Gentile offered an even greater set of difficulties to overcome in preaching to them. This would come much later.
 - Acts 1:8 "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
 - The Church is commissioned to go to Samaria and to the Gentiles (the remotest part of the earth)
- *Lost Sheep of the house of Israel* - These are not lost in the sense that to God they are missing and cannot be located. God knows exactly where they are. In fact he is sending apostles (messengers) to them. They are lost in the sense that Israel does not have their bearings. Israel isn't clear of the right direction.

How do they become lost?

 - Isaiah 53:6 "All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way"
 - Jeremiah 50:6 "My people have become lost sheep; Their shepherds have led them astray"
- Notice that the House of Israel is not a building. It is the people. This will help our understanding when we get to verse 13.

Mat 10:7

3) What the Apostles Were to Do vs 7-8a

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Mat 10:8

"Heal *the sick*, raise *the dead*, cleanse *the lepers*, cast out demons.

- The Apostles were to first go and PREACH. Too many get this backwards. We want to go and do miracles and then after some sign we will tell them about Jesus.
 - Mark 16:20 "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs **following**. Amen."
 - What did they preach?
 - The same thing Jesus preached. Matthew 4:17 "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""
 - The Same thing John the Baptist preached. Matthew 3:1-2 "Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.""
 - Looking for a novel or a new message is contrary to the way Jesus sent out His messengers. Jesus sent them with a simple message that others (John and Jesus) have already preached. It is more than "OK" to preach what Jesus preached.
- Healing sick, Cleansing lepers and Casting out demons are all covered by the authority given them in verse 1. But something new is added. RAISE THE DEAD.
 - This incredible authority isn't recorded to have occurred regularly. In fact the instances are found much later in Acts 9 (Dorcus by Peter) and Acts 20 (Eutycus by Paul)

- One of the important things to notice concerning this authority over sickness, demons and dead is that this first training ground is not in the synagogues. The sick, demon possessed, and the dead were not allowed in the synagogue.
The first training ground is door-to-door or street ministry.

4) How the Apostles Were to Provide for Themselves vs 8b-15

Mat 10:8b
Mat 10:9

Freely you received, freely give.

- Jesus did not charge the Apostles for this authority. And Jesus expects the apostle to not charge for the ministry they perform for the people.

"Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts,

Mat 10:10

or a bag for *your* journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

Mat 10:11

"And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave *that* city.

- Jesus is training the Apostles to trust in God's providential care. For them there is no need to fund raise or have pre arranged support for ministry. Jesus is telling them to not be concerned over these things that they are to be focused on ministry.
 - The following are methods historically employed by some different missionaries and ministries: (by Squidoo)
 1. **The Mueller approach** - don't tell anyone, just pray. It works, but you need to understand that you will sit down to empty tables with this method. The food only appears after you are seated. Mueller wasn't about fund raising, he was about ministry. That was his focus and he left the fund raising or lack thereof to God. But the people knew, and they spread the word, and food appeared. He had a great unspoken support team. Many good small ministries operate in our cities and churches this way today. We need to gossip about them more to enlarge the base. The common folk caught the vision, his life and example connected with them at a feeling level and they responded with open hearts.
 2. **The Wycliffe way** - in groups and individually, ask for prayer, don't share the financial need unless asked. But we all knew that we needed to ask them, because we were about supporting missionaries. And we pulled the details out of them.
 3. **The DL Moody approach** - share the financial needs and appeal for action.
 4. **The Campus Crusade approach** - a direct ask for money over a businessman lunch. Direct, logical, spell out the vision, the need and that God is calling you to be part of the answer. Colorful brochures and presentation notebooks are desirable. Great for businessmen, executive types, leaders, thinkers. Overwhelming to the common folks who support me.
- *A worker is worthy of his support* - Rather than this meaning as an instruction to a congregation it more applies to the minister. Most seem to use this verse to teach the people to give to their minister. While there is merit to this Jesus is speaking to the apostles. He is telling them to WORK.
 - They quite possibly would preach minister pray and after all that is done go and work in the field with the people
- Stay in the house provided. Receive the providential care provided.

Mat 10:12

"As you enter the house, give it your greeting.

Mat 10:13

"If the house is worthy, give it your *blessing of peace*. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing of peace*.

- *If the house is worthy* - the Biltmore Estate is worthy. This is not about luxury or comfort.
- Actually verse 14 gives the standard of worthiness. If the house receives you and heeds the message.
- The initial interactions should not be about us. When we enter the house we are to be courteous. "*Give it your greeting*" It isn't about how we are greeted it is about us giving a greeting. If the greeting is received "*give it your blessing of peace.*"
 - Isn't wonderful when someone comes into your home and says, "You have such a nice home." or "It feels so comfortable here" or "It is so peaceful here". We should do the same. Give a blessing. If you can't say anything nice, find something like "This is an interesting lamp"
 - I'm not so sure what it means to "take back your blessing of peace" maybe you should say "That's a stupid looking lamp"

Mat 10:14

"Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

Mat 10:15 "Truly 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.

- If the messenger is not received, the apostles are instructed to shake it off and go on. Too often we linger in a place of pity or criticalness. Jesus says shake it off. Go on, you've got work to do. Leave the judgment to God.
- For those who refuse the message, for those who do not receive those sent by God there will be judgment.
 - Sodom and Gomorrah was completely destroyed.
 - But this is God's work. It is not the work of the messenger. He is to go on to find those who will hear and receive.

Persecution in
General

Mat 10:16

5) Warning for the Apostles As They Go vs 16-37

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

- We have just seen the apostles called from the disciples. Jesus here explains an aspect of the ministry they are called to.
- Jesus sends them out as sheep.
 - Sheep are not aggressive predators.
 - Sheep are vulnerable
 - Sheep need a fold
 - Sheep just graze.
 - Sheep need a shepherd to guide.
 - Jesus sends these out in this manner not as a rhinoceros
 - Isaiah 53:7 Speaking of the Messiah Jesus "*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter*"
- Jesus sends them out as sheep in the midst of wolves
 - Wolves are predators.
 - Wolves are aggressive
 - Wolves are unruly
 - Wolves devour sheep
- Jesus tells them to go out into this situation as shrewd as a serpent and innocent as doves
 - **Shrewd** = to be astute, discerning, practically wise.
 - A serpent is shrewd because they are hated by everyone. Yet they need to survive. Think about what they have to overcome to survive. They have no hands or feet and they are out in the desert. To survive they must be incredibly shrewd.
 - **Innocent** = (Greek - *akeriaos*) means unmixed. It was a word used where wine was pure and unmixed with water or any foreign matter that would cause harm. Some translations use the word "harmless"
- The contrasting words are striking and purposeful. **Jesus is calling the messengers He sends out to be in stark contrast to those around them.** Yet we find that within ourselves we are tempted to conform to blend in to be mixed so we can find acceptance. Sadly there are churches that have yielded to this temptation and actually strive to not allow Christ and the Scriptures to stand in contrast against carnal manner of living.

Mat 10:17 "But beware of men, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and scourge you in their synagogues;

Mat 10:18 and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

- There are persecutions waiting for those Jesus sends out.
 - **Courts** = from civic authority
 - **Synagogues** = from religious authority
 - **Governors and Kings** = It is amazing that the message would reach the ears of these authorities from the likes of everyday common fishermen and tax collectors. This tells us just how affecting the message of the gospel is that it will cause concern at this level of society.

- Gentiles = In verse 5 they were instructed not to go to the Gentiles. Yet their testimony will reach them.
 - o It will reach them because the accounts of the reaction / persecution
 - o It will reach them because Jesus will eventually send the Church to them
 - o This causes me to ask concerning the message / the gospel I use; Is my message this far reaching and does it cause this reaction?

Mat 10:19 "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.

Mat 10:20 "For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

- What a wonderful promise for the persecutions to come. Jesus is telling his disciples to not be so worried about defensive strategies.
 - What do I say if they call me a narrow minded fool or bigot?
 - Jesus is saying Preach the gospel.
 - What if I'm arrested?
 - The Holy Spirit will give you what to say in that particular moment.

When Luther was asked to recant his writings this was what he replied in that moment

"Your Imperial Majesty and Your Lordships demand a simple answer. Here it is, plain and unvarnished. Unless I am convinced of error by the testimony of Scripture or (since I put no trust in the unsupported authority of Pope or councils, since it is plain that they have often erred and often contradicted themselves) by manifest reasoning, I stand convinced by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God's word, I cannot and will not recant anything, for to act against our conscience is neither safe for us, nor open to us. On this I take my stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

How Personal
the Persecution
will be

Mat 10:21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

Mat 10:22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

- This stark contrast Jesus is calling His messengers to even affect the closest, most intimate and emotional of relationships.
- Jesus is warning His messengers that those who should always be in your corner will not stand by you because of the message of Jesus Christ.
- HATED = the strongest word used in connection with what should be the most supportive loving relationships HATED BY ALL = what a recruiting speech. Yet it is refreshing that there is one source of honesty given to the Church. Jesus' Word!

Mat 10:23 "But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

- Jesus is telling the apostles to move on when there is the resistance. No need to argue, to demand your rights. Jesus says you flee, you move on.
- They would not finish... until the Son of Man comes. The Son of Man is a term Jesus used for Himself referring to His earthly ministry: His incarnation and work on Calvary. It speaks of His humanity but in no way denying His deity.
- Until He comes is the work He fulfilled on the cross. The payment for our sin.

Encouragement
for Persecution
Likeness

Mat 10:24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.

Mat 10:25 "It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more *will they malign* the members of his household!

- Remember Isaiah 53:7 how Jesus was "**Like a lamb that is led to slaughter**" Jesus encourages His messengers that they are following in His footsteps.
- It is a glory and honor to be persecuted for His name sake.

Understanding Purpose

Mat 10:26 "Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

Mat 10:27 "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear *whispered in your ear*, proclaim upon the housetops.

- Jesus promised understanding for those being persecuted and ultimate justification. The truth will be revealed regardless of how the persecutors will attempt to suppress the truth and manipulate the facts.
- So go on shouting the Gospel. The message should be consistent. What is whispered in the ear is what is declared from the housetops. There are not two messages. One for the church and one for the world.

Care & Value

Mat 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- Nobody is looking to sacrifice themselves. This isn't what Jesus is referring to. There are those who will persecute to the death of Jesus' messengers.
- Jesus message is to NOT FEAR them. Much like not worrying about your defense strategy.
- The reality is that Christians will live forever with Christ. There may be a time that we shed this physical shell. We will be resurrected with a new body.
- Yet for those who have NOT had their sin atoned for by the blood of Christ, their fate is to be feared.

Mat 10:29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Mat 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Mat 10:31 "So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

- Jesus lets His messengers know they need not fear because:
 - 1) God Knows them intimately
 - 2) They are of Great Value to God ----- What do you do with your valuables?

Mat 10:32 "Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 10:33 "But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.

- There is no such thing as a Secret Service Christian.
- A Christian is on publically.
- This entire section is purposely instructing the believer to Live Publically in Contrast to Carnal Norms
- If confessed publically, Jesus promises to confess openly
- If denied publically, Jesus promises to deny openly

Purpose for Persecution

Mat 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

- The mention of Jesus brings a sword. His name does not at first bring peace between men. One day He will come again and will rule with peace. But currently, between men, His name brings division.
- A sword divides. Jesus describes the sword (the division)
- We are NOT to think He came to bring peace. But too often the first thing we tell people is that following Jesus brings peace. Be clear. It IS peace between God and man, not necessarily between man and man.

Mat 10:35 "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;

- Mat 10:36 and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.
- Mat 10:37 "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.
- Jesus uses a very strong image to define the devotion He expects. This devotion will truly cause a division referred to in verse 34.
 - Jesus expects love for Him to be more than love for Mother and Father or for Son or Daughter
 - The picture extends that even a mother and daughter will be against each other. Not due to rebellion but the division due to who Jesus is and Dedication to Jesus. A sword of division will, at times, run through families.
 - In the movie "Chariots of Fire", the Prince of Wales, Lord Birkenhead, Lord Cadogan and the Duke of Sutherland were trying to change Eric Liddell's conviction not to run on the Sabbath. Lord Cadogan tried to change Liddell's order of authority and force him to obey the desire of the Prince of Wales.
 - *Lord Cadogan: Hear, hear. In my day it was King first and God after.*
 - *Duke of Sutherland: Yes, and the War To End Wars bitterly proved your point!*
 - Loving Family, Honoring the King, Children's sports activities are all good. Idolatry can be subtle. It can happen when doing things that are good; when placing these good things above devotion to the Lord.
- Mat 10:38 "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.
- This is the first mention of a cross in Matthew's Gospel. It isn't referring to Calvary, Jesus' cross. It is referring to the well known punishment from the Romans upon criminals and Jews.
 - In 4 BC, a roman general Varus broke up a rebellion and to eliminate any other uprising he crucified 2000 Jews along the side of the road as a demonstration of what will happen to any other revolt. The Jews knew full well what the cross was.
 - The cross was not a temporary trial or difficulty one had to bear. The cross meant death. It was an awful picture.
 - Worthy devotion is measured by death of oneself.
 - Spurgeon "*Bearing the cross, we are follow after Jesus: to bear a cross without following Christ is a poor affair. A Christian who shuns the cross is no Christian; but a crossbearer who does not follow Jesus equally misses the mark.*"
- Mat 10:39 "He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.
- So common is the mistake by man to hang on to what they should let go. Many principals of life that are directives from God are opposite of what we are naturally inclined to do. So it is with the overall purpose of life.
 - We need to let go. We need to stop being the one who governs and controls our lives.
 - Jesus is not saying to just let go or just lose it. He is saying let go or lose it "FOR MY SAKE", then he will find it. People want more of God or they simply do not sense God in their life. It may be that they are holding on or seeking Him so guardedly that it is impossible to see Him.
- Mat 10:40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.
- If a man receives the Kings messenger receives the King himself.
 - If a man receives you (Jesus' ambassador) receives Jesus. A man who receives Jesus receives God.
- Mat 10:41 "He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.
- Mat 10:42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."
- There is a reward for those who receive the messengers and prophets sent by God.
 - The reward is the same that a righteous man would receive. That would be entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.
 - Jesus addresses the scope of this to the finest detail. A Cup of Cold Water. What great lasting benefit is a cup of water? It is given and in short time one is thirsty again. Jesus is saying that He notices and will reward even is simplest form of hospitality and compassion that has been shown.

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