

Episode #742 Matthew 10 Part 2-Orders for the Mission

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. In Matthew 10, the Lord was commissioning His disciples for a mission on which He was sending them. He chose twelve of His disciples for this important task. Today, we will consider the commands He gave them as to how to carry out their mission.

III. The Lord’s Orders to the Twelve. Matthew 10:5-

- A. Verse 5. “Sent out” = *apostello*, sent with a commission or authority. That is why they are called “apostles” in verse 2. He gave a commandment or charge to them not to take any road that would lead them into Gentile territory or to any Samaritan city. These were the cities in central Israel that had belonged to the northern kingdom before the Assyrian captivity. Now, the land was peopled by a part-Israelite mixed people who worshiped God not at Jerusalem but in their local high places, as the northern kingdom had done. They had traditionally “worshiped” the true God along with idols. The full Israelites considered them bastardized, their religion false, and their company detestable, considering them almost worse than Gentiles. Many of them were, however, descendants of the man Israel. In our own country there have at times been cities that were German or Polish or Swedish, etc. This did not mean they could not speak to Samaritans, but they were not to go purposefully to their cities.
- B. Verse 6. We need to pay close attention to this. Did they leave Israel and go to the Anglo-Saxons to do this? No! They stayed right there in the land of Israel and as such went to Israel’s lost sheep.
- C. Verse 7. “Preach” is “herald.” At most crossroads there was a village, though there might be no more than 20 people there. They could also go to cities. Then, they were to herald, which was just to start shouting out their message. If I were to take an advertisement to a paper or magazine, I would expect them to print the advertisement exactly as I gave it to them. The same was true of heralding. The “kingdom of the heavens” was a synonym for the kingdom of God, since the Jews did not like to say His name. They were to herald this kingdom as impending.
- D. Verse 8. The Greek here is very simple, like “sick heal, leprous cleanse, dead raise, demonized outcast, freely receiving freely give.” “Heal” is *therapeuo*. “Freely” is the word *dorean*. The same as of Christ, “They hated me **without a cause**,” John 15:25. We are justified freely or “without a cause” by His grace, Romans 3:24. Paul proclaimed the gospel free of charge, II Corinthians 11:7. They were not charged, and they were not to charge a single penny for their services. Those healers who charge for ticket prices today are not following this admonition. They are not to demand anything in return, even faith. But these men healed all in the city or village, every one. There was no hiding it in a village of twenty!
- E. Verse 9. Gold, silver, and copper are three kinds of money. The purse could be a girdle with pockets, or a hollow belt used for carrying money.
- F. Verse 10. Scrip is a wallet or bag of provisions. Deissman suggested and Bullinger quoted that it was a begging bag, but Lenski disagrees, with good arguments. No extra clothes nor staffs either. The Lord will provide these miraculously. Notice: the Lord is now sending workmen to labor on the harvest, Matthew 9:37-38.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord sent the twelve disciples He chose for an important mission, and gave them orders as to how to carry it out. He did not send them to Gentiles, but only to the sheep of Israel. Their proclamation involved the kingdom of the heavens. They were not to bring supplies, but to trust that their Lord would provide these for them as they went. We should realize the great authority God gave these men. They were not just a bunch of fuddy-duddies running around in bathrobes. They were God's agents, speaking and acting by His orders. Let us learn to take these twelve men seriously, for they were some of the most important men God ever chose to represent Him.