

Episode #7-44 - Matthew 10 Part 4-Disciples and Their Master

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 twelve disciples for a mission on which He was sending them. They were to choose a worthy house and stay there, not going from house to house per custom. They are to salute the house with peace, but if the house is not worthy, the peace will return to them. They are going like sheep among wolves, and will be delivered to sanhedrins and led before governors. They are not to take thought beforehand what to say. Today, we will learn why.

III. Opposition to His Disciples. Matthew 10:16-26.

- A. Verse 20. “The Spirit” is with the article “the” in Greek, so meaning the Person of the Spirit. Notice He is called the Spirit of the Father here, the Spirit of Christ in Romans 8:9. These three are inseparably linked, not three fully distinct Gods. Notice this is Divine inspiration, characteristic of the Acts period but not of the dispensation of grace in which we live. We should not try to appropriate this for ourselves because it will not work. Even in the Acts period He gave them what to speak, but that did not guarantee that they would be listened to and set free. His inspired words through Stephen only got him stoned!
- B. Verse 21. The Lord says the same thing about the tribulation period in Mark 13:12 and Luke 21:16. The Lord here (perhaps from verse 16) seems to be giving instructions to His disciples, not just for the mission they were immediately facing, but for multiple future missions, including their Acts period mission and their mission in the tribulation period. There is not necessarily a set delineation point; He moves back and forth between these missions freely. Remember, it was and will be the same men carrying out all these missions!
- C. Verse 22. This was not their experience in the mission they were then facing, nor in their mission in the Acts period. Yet this will be true when they are dealing with the rebels against the kingdom in the tribulation period. Put this in its proper perspective and it is speaking of the future tribulation period, not the period they were about to pass through. “Endures” is *hupomeno*, meaning to patiently endure difficult circumstances without giving up. The “end” is *telos*. The Lord uses the same words of the tribulation period in Matthew 24:13.
- D. Verse 23. “Assuredly” in Greek is “Amen I say to you.” Is this referring to the second coming of Jesus Christ? But the disciples are to lead the flight into the mountains according to Matthew 24. How then can they be out going over the cities of Israel? But why not suppose He is speaking of the mission He was then sending them on? He has already told them to shake the dust off their feet if any city does not receive them. Why should we suppose that none of the leaders of these cities would seek to persecute them or chase them out? Then the Son of Man coming would refer to Christ arriving to gather them back to Himself and end their mission, not the second coming. This seems to fit better with the truths of other passages to me.
- E. Verse 24. A disciple picked some great master-teacher and chose to dedicate at least some of his life to living with him and learning to be just like him. No disciple would be greater than the master-teacher he was supposedly learning from, for then, rather

than learning how to be greater, he could only learn how to be worse. The “servant” here is actually the Greek *doulos* or “slave.”

F. Verse 25. The goal of the disciple was to be like his master-teacher. The best a slave could do is become like his master, as Joseph did.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord sent out His disciples with the Holy Spirit, so He would give them what to say when the need arose. He warns them that men will hate them because of their connection with Him. Even family members will betray each other over Jesus Christ. A disciple is not better than his master-teacher, but his best goal is to strive to be like his master-teacher. Do we all strive to be, as much as we can, like Jesus Christ?