

Matthew – The King And His Kingdom
The Great Adventure
Notes For Session 11 – Chapter 10: Jesus Commissions the Twelve

T1. Overview of the Chapter:

In Chapter 8 and 9, we Jesus did ten wonderful miracles. In Chapter 10, He is going to set His Apostles apart to go out and begin to do the ministry of the Kingdom. Jesus is raising up disciples and sending them out into the world.

A. John Paul II in his document on the family said, “The Eucharist was the source of apostolic zeal and the family is to be involved in apostolic endeavors.” Every family should be involved in bring the Gospel, change, and the Kingdom to the world. God has called all of us in changing the world.

The Eucharist is our fuel, the grace of God, the life of God. Jesus will give us Himself completely in later chapters of Matthew. We cannot go out into the world to do the work of Jesus unless we our fed by Him.

B. The Kingdom of Heaven is the Kingdom here on earth. Our responsibility is to take this established Kingdom and spread it throughout all of the world. We have to go out in the power of the Spirit. Book of Acts begins that the Apostles go out in the power of the Spirit in the same way that Jesus went out in the power of the Spirit.

In the OT is says not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord. Chapter 10 is all about going out in the Spirit. In Chapter 28 Go and make disciples of all nations. The word Disciple in Hebrew is the word “Talmid”, which means a student – a discipline follower of Christ.

C. In Chapter 10 is the second Discourse in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus selects twelve Apostles and He gives them a “missionary sermon” before sending them to the Galilean villages. Challenging them to preach the Kingdom is at hand.

T2. The Mission of the Twelve (Verse 1 – 15)

“Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

A. Jesus selects twelve Apostles and they are going to go out and preach that the Kingdom is at hand, the Kingdom is here.

- 1) Jesus gives the Apostles the same authority of healing and exorcism displayed during His earlier ministry.
- 2) Up to this point, Jesus has been doing everything. Now He is sending them out to do the work.
- 3) God will use you in unusual ways if you will just be open to it. God is so good at opening the door and all we have to do is step through that door. He will use us truly by His Spirit not by our power or our might.

B. Why did Jesus choose twelve leaders? Twelve leaders like the twelve Tribes of Israel in the OT. He is restoring Israel and Judah.

- 1) There have not been twelve Tribes of Israel since 722 BC. In 722 BC the ten tribes of the north (Israel) were taken were taken into exile by the Assyrians. Prophets message in the OT was that God would restore the twelve tribes.

- 2) We Jesus chooses the twelve it points to the deep restoration that will take place in the future.
- 3) He calls them Apostles, which means “one who is sent.”

C. Jesus sends the Apostles to the lost sheep of Israel. This reflects the order of Salvation History.

10:5-6: "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

- 1) It was in this region of Galilee of the gentiles, where the ten northern tribes were taken out first. Now Jesus is going to restore them.
- 2) This is going to be the focus of Paul's ministry in the book of Acts. Paul is on trial because of what the prophets said about restoring these ten tribes.
 - a) Exodus 19:5: Israel was adopted by God as His own possession and gave them special privilege Rom 9; they were given the Word of God.
 - b) It would be natural for them to first to hear the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - c) First Israel and Judah, then the Gentiles will hear the Gospel of the Kingdom.
 - d) After the Resurrection sends the Apostles to the Gentiles.

D. Verse 14: Stomping the dust off your feet.

10:14: Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words--go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet.

- 1) A custom that would you would leave the country of Israel and would return to Israel, you would stomp you feet, clap your hands and stomp the dust off your feet. It would be a sign of going from unclean to clean.
- 2) Jews would shake the dust off their sandals when leaving Gentile countries. It was meant as a derogatory statement. Jesus commands something similar as a gesture to those who have rejected the message of the Gospel.
- 3) This gesture speaks of judgment, see Luke 10:10-12 and Acts 13:51.

T3. Verse 16: Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves.

Jesus is lives the life of Israel, and in the Christians in the Book of Acts live the life of Jesus.

A. He is warning us: I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves, but be wise as serpents and innocent as doves

- 1) Most of us are one or the other. We are either wise as serpents or innocent as doves.
- 2) “Without innocence shrewdness becomes manipulative. Without shrewdness innocence becomes naïve.” N.T. Wright
- 3) God is calling us to go out into the world and be wise as serpents and innocence as doves.

B. When we go out into the world, we are going to go into battle. An enemy out there does not like us. Jesus believed there was a devil and confronted him. We are going to be doing spiritual warfare.

- 1) We have to grow spiritually ourselves. “Make your Heart a Project.”

- 2) You have to know yourself. You need to know your heart. You need to advance in spiritual growth. Remember the pillars in your life.
- 3) We tend to follow ourselves and often we do not know ourselves. We have not thought about what is my weakness; what is the vice in my life that I am still struggling with, and am I combating that vice with virtue in my life.
- 4) Pride is disordered self-trust. St. Thomas.
- 5) First part in spiritual direction is to find out what are you struggling with in your life right now.

C. The Lord is sending us out and we need to be ready. We can depend upon Him. He will give us the words, we open our mouths, and the Holy Spirit will fill out mouth. He will use our preparation to do a work, but we need to be wise need to be innocent.

T4. Verses 19-25: When they deliver you up do not be anxious:

10:16-20: When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

A. Do we believe that God continues to speak to us and through us today?

B. Speaking and knowing that was not me, it was the Spirit speaking through me.

10:21-23: Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

C. Jesus is promising to come again in the lifetime of the Apostles. This generation in scripture refers to a 40-year period. This is a reference to 70 AD the destruction of the Temple.

10:24-25 No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household!

D. Beelzebul is a philistine god that was worshipped in the city of Ekron in the OT. Ekron is one of the five Philistine cities located where the current Gaza Strip is in Israel. 2 Kings 1:2-16.

E. Beelzebul translates – Prince of Bail. Jews changed meaning to Lord of the Flies or Lord of Dominant. In the Gospel, Beelzebul refers to Satan – The Prince of Demons.

F. If they call Jesus Beelzebul now, they going to malign you

T5. Courage under Persecution. What command of the Lord is repeated more than any other – Do not Be Afraid!

A. How many of us are afraid to evangelize, go talk to someone, to be vulnerable and open up our lives to other people. Afraid that we really do not know the Bible the way we would like to know the Bible. Afraid that we will be asked a question that we will not know how to answer, we are going to look foolish.

B. Jesus says Do not be afraid have no fear of them.

10:26-28: "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those

who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

C. Jesus says again Do not be afraid:

10:31-33: So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.

D. Why should we not be afraid? Because the enemy, Satan cannot force spiritual death upon the soul. Only we can turn our life over and give up our life.

CCC 363 In Sacred Scripture the term "soul" often refers to human *life* or the entire human *person*. But "soul" also refers to the innermost aspect of man, that which is of greatest value in him, that by which he is most especially in God's image: "soul" signifies the *spiritual principle* in man.

E. Only God can send the faithless to eternal punishment. A holy fear of God is the key to avoiding sin and its consequences.

T6. Jesus: A Cause of Division Verses (34- 36)

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword.

A. Jesus did not come to bring division to divide people. He came to bring Peace that passes all understanding and He is the Prince of Peace.

- 1) He came to introduce the new way of being God's people. And the new way will bring division among families, on relationships automatically.
- 2) He does not come saying I am going come and divide you, but His message can be divisive. Because it is very black and white. It is the narrow way and it is the broad way.

B. Jesus is quoting Mica 7:6 when He mentions mothers and fathers:

10:35-36: For I have come to set a man 'against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; 10:36 and one's enemies will be those of his household.'

10:37-39: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- 1) Prophet Mica is predicting that there will always be terrible division when God is doing something new. That is what happens when Jesus comes and does something new.
- 2) Loving Mother or Father more than Christ:

CCC 2232 Family ties are important but not absolute. Just as the child grows to maturity and human and spiritual autonomy, so his unique vocation which comes from God asserts itself more clearly and forcefully. Parents should respect this call and encourage their children to follow it. They must be convinced that the first vocation of the Christian is to follow Jesus: "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."
- 3) Pope John Paul II said the only way you can truly find yourself and know who you are is to give your life away.
 - a) What did Adam do in the Garden of Eden? Adam protected his life. He did not lay down his life for his bride or for God in the face of temptation, in the face of possible threat from the serpent in the Garden.

- b) What happened when Adam preserved his life – he lost his life.
- c) Jesus says if you want to find your life, lose it. Give it away and you will find out who you are.
- d) Who are you? You are created in the image of God. Who is God, the Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father eternally loving the Son, The Son eternally loving the Father and the love between them is The Holy Spirit.
- e) That is what we are called to – a self-emptying – a pouring out of ourselves in love.
- f) When do I find my real self? When I love with all of my heart and pour out all my heart. That is when you find peace, when you give yourself away.
- g) Do not find peace in your heart, when you are selfish. When you preserve your life and think about your own things that I want to pursue.

T7. Cannot get the work of the Kingdom done in the world today, except by taking up your Cross.

A. What is a Cross for?

- 1) Cross is where you die. Cross is something they humans to and they die.
- 2) If you pick up your Cross, then you must die to yourself.
- 3) That is why we do not fear. I am dead in Christ; I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live.

B. Our Goal, our Hope, our Joy, and our Longing is Heaven and the beatific vision to see God face to face.

C. Can you imagine the moment when you get to Heaven come face to face with God. And you look into His eyes. All of this would have been worth it.

- 1) We must die to ourselves now. I have been crucified with Christ.
- 2) Take up your Cross – this spells out the costs of discipleship,
- 3) Acts starts out by saying, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will be My witnesses.”
 - a) Witness comes from the word Martyr.
 - b) You shall be My martyrs.
 - c) You will daily pick up your cross and follow Me.
- 4) You will empty yourself for others. You will love the way I love.
- 5) Offer it up. Offer up your suffering, challenges, gossip about you, someone maligning you. Offer it up.

D. Pick up your Cross

- 1) Very plain to the Jews as the Romans used the cross as an instrument of death.
- 2) The streets outside of Jerusalem were lined with crosses.
- 3) History tells us there was a shortage of wood, just due to the number of crosses the Romans used.
- 4) So for Jesus to tell His disciples to Pick Up Your Cross, He was taking about an instrument of death. Take up your cross, and die to yourself, and live this new life.

- 5) Jesus is telling us that faithfulness will include self-denial, suffering and possibly death.

T8. Verse 40: "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

CCC 858 Jesus is the Father's Emissary. From the beginning of his ministry, he "called to him those whom he desired; And he appointed twelve, whom also he named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach." From then on, they would also be his "emissaries" (Greek *apostoloi*). In them, Christ continues his own mission: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." The apostles' ministry is the continuation of his mission; Jesus said to the Twelve: "he who receives you receives me."

A. Verse 42: "And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple--amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."

- 1) He calls these little ones the Apostles.

- 2) Service to the Apostles is service to Christ. Our Bishops today are direct descendents of the Apostles. We must treat our Bishops with tremendous respect.

B. God is calling us out into the world to do the works He is doing. Do not be afraid, I will be with you. Pick up your cross and follow me. Rely on Me completely. The Holy Spirit will give you the words at the moment. I will be with you, always!