

Matthew 10

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Gospel Strategy and Sequence

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The 12 disciples Jesus chose were a group of ordinary people: Peter, Andrew, Zebedee's sons Jacob and John, all fishermen, Matthew, a tax collector described as sinners, and Judas, who betrayed the Lord Jesus.

Jesus Himself led his disciples on a journey of life training. The first time the Lord Jesus sent his disciples out was to preach the gospel to the Israelites, and not to go to the Samaritans and Gentiles for a while. Jesus had a gospel strategy and order. It was the Jews who were susceptible to the gospel. For this group of first-time evangelists, it is necessary to specify a clear target and scope.

The Lord Jesus instructed his disciples not to carry money and daily necessities with them, so that the disciples could learn to trust the Lord alone and experience the Lord's faithfulness and provision in the practical exercises. To receive those whom the Lord sends is to receive the Lord's presence and peace. To reject the Lord's sending is to reject the Lord's presence. When we encounter persecution and opposition, we must never speak in our own flesh, for the Holy Spirit will naturally lead us in what we say and what we do. The Lord Jesus clearly tells us that it is inevitable to suffer and be persecuted on earth, because the world is persecuted even by the Lord Jesus, let alone us. Therefore, we bear witness to the Lord, preach the gospel for the Lord, and in the midst of suffering, persevere in acknowledging Jesus. "A student cannot be higher than a master, and a servant cannot be higher than a master". Here Jesus reminds His disciples that they should not think they are wiser or more in standing and try to challenge the position of God over the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Luke 22:35-36, the Lord's requirements for his disciples have changed. He said to them, "But now he who has a purse may take it, and he that hath a pocket may carry it, and he that hath no sword will sell his

clothes and buy a sword." For, from that time on, the gospel will be preached to the Gentiles, and there will be dangers of mountains, rivers, wild beasts, and rivers on the way, and the evangelists will make it possible for people to receive the benefits of the gospel without spending money. The salvation accomplished by the Lord Jesus is also moving forward step by step.

Evangelism and Missions Always Begin in Your Own Home When Jesus was on earth, he initially sent these twelve disciples to the house of Israel, but after the Lord's resurrection and ascension, the mission for the disciples was to have them "testify to him from Jerusalem, all Judah, and Samaria, to the ends of the earth." So we first care about our family and the people around us, we care about our neighbors, our communities, our compatriots, and then gradually spread to all parts of the world.

The powers on earth are ruled by the devil, and the kingdoms of heaven are ruled by God. Jesus now brought down the kingdom of heaven and planted it on earth like a mustard seed, growing it all the way until it finally prevailed over Satan's kingdom.

Jesus is the King of Peace, who wants to bring about reconciliation between God and man, and peace between people, but the process may lead to spiritual battles, and it may even be his own father, mother, and closest family members who may become our enemies because of our faith. We are to take up our cross and follow Jesus, willing to pay the price for our faith!

Each of us believers is valued by God and is used by God to put the Lord Jesus first and love Him more than anything else. God will give us eternal dignity as a beautiful testimony of God's glory and benefit!

We prayed together. Dear Lord, we are willing to answer your call, to pay the price to be your disciples, to be sent to serve the world and our brothers and sisters. May the Lord give us the power to fulfill the Lord's Great Commission! Thank you, Lord! Bless your church! Pray and thank you in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Matthew 10

The Twelve Disciples; Instructions for Service

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

² Now these are the names of the twelve ^[a]apostles (special messengers, personally chosen representatives): first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother; ^[b] James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew (Nathanael); Thomas and Matthew (Levi) the tax collector; ^[c] James the son of ^[d] Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus (Judas, not Iscariot); ⁴ Simon the Cananaean (Zealot), and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

⁵ Jesus sent out these twelve, instructing them: "Do not go among the Gentiles, and do not go into a city of the Samaritans; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹ Do not take gold, or silver, or [even] copper money in your money belt, ¹⁰ or a provision bag for your journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker

deserves his support. ¹¹ Whatever city or village you enter, ask who in it is worthy [who welcomes you and your message], and stay at his house until you leave [that city]. ¹² As you go into the house, give it your greeting [that is, ‘Peace be to this house’]. ¹³ If [the family living in] the house is worthy [welcoming you and your message], give it your [blessing of] ^[e]peace [that is, a blessing of well-being and prosperity, the favor of God]. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing of peace*. ¹⁴ Whoever does not welcome you, nor listen to your message, as you leave that house or city, ^[i]shake the dust [of it] off your feet [in contempt, breaking all ties]. ¹⁵ I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of ^[g]Sodom and Gomorrah than for that city [since it rejected the Messiah’s messenger].

A Hard Road before Them

¹⁶ “Listen carefully: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves [have no self-serving agenda]. ¹⁷ Beware of men [whose nature is to act in opposition to God], for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you within that [very] hour; ²⁰ for it is not you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ “Brother will betray brother to death, and the father his child; and children will rise up *and* rebel against their parents and cause them to be put death. ²² And you will be hated by everyone because of [your association with] My name, but it is the one who has patiently persevered *and* endured to the end who will be saved.

²³ “When they persecute you in one city [because of your faith in Me], flee to the next; for I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, you will not finish *going through* all the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The Meaning of Discipleship

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a bond-servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the bond-servant like his master. If they have called the head of the house ^[h]Beelzebul (Satan), how much more [will they speak evil of] the members of his household.

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, for nothing is hidden that will not be revealed [at the judgment], or kept secret that will not be made known [at the judgment]. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark (privately), tell in the light (publicly); and what you hear *whispered* in your ear, proclaim from the housetops [to many people]. ²⁸ Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; but rather be afraid of Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two little sparrows sold for a ^[i]copper coin? And yet not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. ³⁰ But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered [for the Father is sovereign and has complete knowledge]. ³¹ So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

³² “Therefore, the one who ^[i]confesses *and* acknowledges Me before men [as Lord and Savior, affirming a state of oneness with Me], that one I will also confess *and* acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But the one who denies *and* rejects Me before men, that one I will also deny *and* reject before My Father who is in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword [of division between belief and unbelief]. ³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father, and a

daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ³⁶ and a man's enemies will be the members of his [own] household [when one believes and another does not].

³⁷ “[k]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. ³⁸ And he who does not take his [l]cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me] is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life [in this world] will [eventually] lose it [through death], and whoever loses his life [in this world] for My sake will find it [that is, life with Me for all eternity].

The Reward of Service

⁴⁰ “He who receives *and* welcomes you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ⁴¹ He who receives *and* welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous (honorable) man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² And whoever gives to one of these little ones [these who are humble in rank or influence] even a cup of cold water to drink because he is my disciple, truly I say to you, he will not lose his reward.”

Matthew 10 is a pivotal chapter in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus commissions His twelve disciples and prepares them for their mission to spread His teachings. It is rich in theological and spiritual insights, emphasizing discipleship, the cost of following Christ, and the promise of divine support.

Full Description of Matthew 10

1. Selection and Sending of the Twelve (Verses 1-4)

Jesus selects His twelve apostles: Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot. He grants them authority over unclean spirits and the power to heal diseases.

2. Instructions for the Mission (Verses 5-15)

Jesus sends the disciples specifically to the "lost sheep of Israel," instructing them to proclaim, "The kingdom of heaven is near." They are to perform miracles, heal the sick, and cast out demons freely, trusting God for their provision. He warns them to depend on hospitality and to leave places that reject their message.

3. Warnings of Persecution (Verses 16-25)

Jesus prepares them for opposition, likening them to sheep among wolves. He advises them to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves." He warns of trials, betrayals, and hostility but assures them of the Holy Spirit's guidance.

4. Encouragement Amid Fear (Verses 26-33)

Jesus urges them not to fear persecution, emphasizing God's care for them, even down to the numbering of their hairs. He highlights the eternal significance of acknowledging Him before others.

5. **The Cost of Discipleship (Verses 34-39)**
Jesus explains that His message may bring division, even among families, as individuals choose to follow Him. He stresses the need to prioritize Him above all else and speaks of the paradox of finding life by losing it for His sake.
 6. **Rewards for Hospitality (Verses 40-42)**
Jesus concludes with a promise that those who receive His disciples or offer even small acts of kindness in His name will be rewarded.
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Important Verses and Their Theological Significance

1. **Matthew 10:7-8**
"As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give."
 - **Theological Thought:** This verse underscores the disciples' role in advancing God's kingdom through both proclamation and action. It reflects God's grace and generosity.
 2. **Matthew 10:16**
"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."
 - **Theological Thought:** This highlights the need for wisdom and integrity in navigating a hostile world while maintaining Christlike purity.
 3. **Matthew 10:28**
"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 hell."
 - **Theological Thought:** This verse emphasizes eternal perspective, urging fear of God over fear of man.
 4. **Matthew 10:32-33**
"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven."
 - **Theological Thought:** It underscores the importance of loyalty to Christ and the eternal consequences of one's public confession of faith.
 5. **Matthew 10:39**
"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it."
 - **Theological Thought:** This paradox illustrates the sacrificial nature of true discipleship, where surrendering earthly priorities leads to eternal fulfillment.
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- 1. Encouragement in Mission**
The chapter inspires Christians to share their faith boldly, trusting in God's provision and guidance.
- 2. Preparation for Persecution**
It offers solace and strength to believers facing opposition, reminding them of their eternal reward.
- 3. Call to Radical Commitment**
Matthew 10 challenges Christians to prioritize their relationship with Christ above all else, even at personal cost.
- 4. Focus on Eternal Perspective**
By emphasizing the soul's value over physical life, it encourages believers to live with an eternal mindset.

Matthew 10 remains a cornerstone for understanding the nature of discipleship and the transformative power of faith, urging believers to live courageously and wholeheartedly for Christ.