

The Gospel of Matthew

Title: Messengers Of The King

Text: Matthew 10:1-4

INTRODUCTION: Up until this point the disciples were along side Jesus, watching, witnessing and observing what He was doing. They began to see the world as He sees it. Looking at lost humanity as God sees it. This was the emphasis of our last text in Matthew 9:36, “**Seeing the people, He felt compassion.**” We are often guilty of having no compassion. **But when the Lord has control, and we see as He sees, we observe a lost world, distressed, confused, wondering and we are moved to share the gospel.** We understand Romans 1:21, “**For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened**”, at least we understand this now as Christians. **We see their hatred, rebellion and sin, and we hurt because they won’t believe.**

POINT #1 - JESUS SUMMONED (CALLED) THE TWELVE

The word **summoned** or **called** is an **intense** term that means “to call someone to themselves, to confront face to face.” Its the same term used in Acts 2:39, “**For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.**” Acts 13:2, “**While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.**” Acts 16:10, “**And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.**”

This was more than a request. In vs. 1 he says “disciples” and vs. 2 he refers to the twelve as “apostles.” **A disciple is one who learns under the master or teacher. An apostle refers to qualified representatives who are sent out on a mission.** They still had much to learn, but with Jesus they were disciples, out on the mission they were called apostles.

Jesus had called them from **their jobs**. He had said to them “**follow me.**” **They all obeyed.** They are in an internship if you will. **They are learning.** Often they went out on “short term” trips. According to Mark 6:7, “**And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.**”

APPLICATION: **It’s encouraging to know that Jesus didn’t call these men based on their own worthiness, personal capabilities or faithfulness, but solely on the basis on what He could make of them by His own power.** The Bible does **not mask the shortcomings, faults** of these men. During these years we see **immature men, unreliable men and men marked with misunderstandings.** I often think of my own life. I often am reminded on the patience of God with me in my own shortcomings. **There’s a lot I wish I could be, but I’m glad I’m not what I was.**

POINT #2 - THEY DIDN’T LOOK FOR THIS

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None of the twelve **initiated** the idea of being a disciple of Christ. In the accounts we have Jesus said to “follow me” and they left their **jobs, living** and **followed Him**. Mark gives the account of this sending out, “**And he went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach**” (Mark 3:13-14; ESV). John 15:16, “**You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain.**” **This is one of the greatest hope of eternal security too.** If God **saves me**, then **He keeps me**, and I **bear fruit to His glory**.

POINT #3 - BEING PREPARED

They were **called** and **converted**, but **they weren't prepared**. And Jesus would spend three years preparing these men. They had left all to follow the Lord, **but at times still misunderstood**. One of the **many reasons one of the qualification to be a pastor is not to be a novice**. And it's exactly for this reason. **Too many pastors have taken a church too early, too young and without a lot of mentorship** (I was one of those).

The disciples were with Jesus for a **purpose**, to **learn**. **We have the Holy Spirit. We have the Word of God**. Matthew 11:29, “**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**” No one **learns**, and **grows** in the Lord apart from **His word**. A lot can be learned from **books, classroom instruction** and **reading**, but to be **taught by the Word of God, His Holy Spirit is invaluable**.

POINT #4 - THE SHORTCOMINGS

The disciples were **humanly defective**, just as we are. I am not going to excuse our own shortcomings, we have an unsurpassed teacher, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to help us. **The word of God is our teacher**. It is our schoolmaster. God corrects His children, “**For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives**” (Hebrews 12:6; ESV).

The lack of spiritual understanding was common among these men. They were **dense** to spiritual understanding, as we all are apt to be, they had trouble understanding the parables too. Matthew 15:13-16, “**Peter said to Him, Explain the parable to us. Jesus said, Are you still lacking in understanding also?**” Peter's lack of understanding in John 13:5-9 concerning the washing of feet, was from “you will never wash my feet” to “wash my hands and my head.” Peter simply missed the meaning of what Jesus was doing. In Matthew 16:21-23, a stinging rebuke for **not seeing spiritually**, “**From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall**

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never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

In John 21 they failed to remember the words of Jesus and went fishing, “Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing.” He missed all that Jesus had taught. Often times they lacked humility, Mark 9:33-34, “They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, What were you discussing on the way? But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest.” They were more concerned about earthly power rather than spiritual power. And listen to our Lord’s kind, but stern response in vs. 35, “Sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.” The disciples nearing the crucifixion of Jesus weren’t able to comprehend the cup He was about to drink, cf. Matthew 20:20-22a, “Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. And He said to her, What do you wish? She said to Him, Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left. But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink? They said to Him, We are able. He said to them, My cup you shall drink.”

They were plagued with a lack of faith. During the storm which our Lord ceased, He responded to the disciples with the piercing question, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (Mark 4:40). After His resurrection in Mark 16:14, “Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.” Do you believe God in everything in your life? Or only when things are going your way? **Or is your faith, based upon your circumstances?**

They were also plagued with lack of commitment. From the very beginning when the “forsook all”, when the cost wasn’t that high, and followed Him to Mark 14:50, “And they all left Him and fled.” In Luke 22:33, “Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!” The very next verse Jesus says to Peter, “I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me” (Luke 22:34). We often say we will do “whatever” for the Lord, but when it comes down to fulfilling that, we scatter. In fact, we will forsake all when the cost isn’t high, but when it requires a commitment, we tend to go back to our comfort zone.

The word fled is a verb describing “running like a fugitive.”

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The great compassion and patience of our Lord was with the continued teaching of the disciples even through these shortcomings. And He does the same for us. He is patient with me, you and continues to teach you so that you will be more like Him as you grow. Over time men should notice something far different about you. The Holy Spirit of God is our teacher today. And when the Holy Spirit was sent permanently to dwell with men in the book of Acts, noticeably there was a difference. Acts 4:13, “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.” People should know we have been with the Lord.

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POINT #5 - THEIR MISSION

Jesus gave them authority. The word means “it is lawful.” It refers to a right or power that is legitimately delegated. Remember to do what Jesus was doing was to demonstrate they were sent by Him. Not for personal gain. Not for personal self pride. An example of this is found in Acts 3:6-8 when Peter was approached by the lame man begging for alms, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk! And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.” The apostles did do great miracles. All this was to prove who Jesus was. In fact, the apostles had causes such a great stir this is said in Acts 17:6, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.”

The authority and power today isn't the same as the days of the apostles. God heals. God does miracles. God works in ways beyond our understanding. We have His word. We hear from Him from His word. These special powers were given to the apostles for a certain time period. Many charlatans today practice these and all have been proven to be false.

APPLICATION: What does this text mean to us today in 2022? First, we are all imperfect people. We have our flaws and our shortcomings. We recognize them and God is patient with us. He doesn't call us because we have already reached some sort of certain status, He calls us to train, teach and equip us. Second, we proclaim the might works of God both now and in the past. We point to the word of God for help and hope. And He sends us out, wherever that may be, local, distant or where you even work to tell of the gospel.