

THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

JESUS IS KING



Jesus Sends the 12

Text: Matthew 10:1-15

1. The Twelve Disciples - Matthew 10:1-4

The main feature of this list is its *diversity*. Jesus chose His disciples from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. About all they had in common was it seems that none of them were privileged or from backgrounds of high status.

This is very much in the spirit of **1 Corinthians 1:26-29**

Jesus did not only *call* the twelve; He also gave them *power* to do what He had called them to do.

The same principle holds true today: whom God calls, God equips. The equipping may not be completely evident before the ministry begins, but it will be evident along the way.

2. Go to Israel Only - Matthew 10:5-6

Jesus was touring around the region of Galilee teaching, preaching, and helping needy people with miraculous power (Matthew 4:23). The sending of **these twelve** was a conscious expanding of that work. Now the work of Jesus was being done by many more than simply Jesus Himself.

Go not into the way of the Gentiles: This is the pattern of the gospel – it is *for the Jew first and also for the Greek* (Romans 1:16). Later, the gospel would go to both the **Samaritans** and the **Gentiles**, but it had to begin with **the lost sheep of the house of Israel**.

3. Preach and Heal - Matthew 10:7-8a

Earlier (Matthew 4:17) we were told that Jesus' message was, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" The disciples brought the same message Jesus preached, simply bringing it over a much broader area than Jesus could physically just by Himself.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: The disciples both had a message to preach and a power to display. In this, they were truly followers of their Master.

The authority for these disciples to **raise the dead** is remarkable; yet the later fulfillment of it was recorded in both Acts 9 and 20, and there were no doubt other unrecorded instances.

4. God would Provide - Matthew 10:8b-15

Jesus charged His disciples nothing, and He expected them to give ministry unto others without charge. This is the foundational principle for the commands that follow.

It is a travesty to charge for gifts that you received from the Holy Ghost.

No fund-raising is necessary, or special equipment be needed. They can go just as they are, and the mission is urgent.

For the workman is worthy of his meat: They were to be *workers*.

Even though the twelve could expect their needs to be met through the people they served, they should never require their needs to be met as payment. The foundational principle was **freely ye have received, freely give**.

If the household is worthy... if it is not worthy: Those who did receive these disciples can expect to be blessed (**let your peace come upon it**); but those places that refused them could expect to be treated as Gentile cities (**shake off the dust of your feet**), and were in serious danger of judgment.



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think Judas was allowed to participate in the mission?
2. What does the diversity of the disciples teach us?
3. What was the goal of this mission?
4. Why Israel first?
5. Why should we never charge for using our gifts in ministry?

6. Does this mean ministers shouldn't be provided for?
7. Why was the mission urgent? Is our mission regent?
8. How can we be more involved in our mission?