

Message #34**Matthew 10:1-15**

One of the many misunderstood and misapplied passages from the book of Matthew is chapter ten. I have heard missionaries use this passage to suggest that laborers are needed to proclaim the Gospel of grace. I have heard Charismatics use this text to suggest that Christians who are sent by God should go heal the sick and cast out demons. This passage has been used by various mission agencies to suggest that it is a Christian's job to see to it that we send medical supplies to other countries so they can be healed of diseases. The devil-group Mormons, with their blasphemous teaching about Jesus Christ go to this chapter and say it is teaching that they must go two-by-two, door to door.

JESUS CHRIST SENT HIS TWELVE APOSTLES TO CITIES IN ISRAEL TO COMMUNICATE THE KINGDOM MESSAGE TO ISRAEL.

These twelve, with the exception of one, will eventually judge the twelve tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28). This passage has nothing to do with the Church or the Grace Age. Now the context is important. Jesus had just told His disciples to beseech the Lord to send out workers into His harvest. In Greek, the text is very emphatic; it is "the harvest of Him."

PART #1 – The assignment and power given to the twelve. 10:1

Now I want us to clearly understand something from this verse. This is not an assignment or power given to believers in the Grace Age. This is a specific dispensation of power given to the specific twelve disciples and apostles when Jesus Christ was on earth. There is no record of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, ever performing one miracle. Jesus Christ specifically gave His twelve apostles the ability to cast out demons and to heal every kind of disease and sickness. It is interesting that the words "every kind" are repeated. The Greek word "pasan" is one that denotes all in the sense of totality of the whole (Smith, p. 347).

PART #2 – The names of the twelve apostles. 10:2-4

There are a list of names given here of the twelve and only the twelve who were given this power. In fact, the word "apostle" is one that means to be specifically commissioned and sent out by Jesus Christ. The twelve names are given in pairs or couplets, perhaps because these were teams of two sent out by Jesus (Mark 6:7). In any listing of the apostle's names, Peter is always named first and Judas last.

1) Simon—the one Jesus called Peter; **2) Andrew**—Peter's brother; **3) James**—son of Zebedee; **4) John**—James' brother; **5) Philip**; **6) Bartholomew**; **7) Thomas**; **8) Matthew**—the tax collector and writer of this book; **9) James**—son of Alphaeus; **10) Thaddaeus**; **11) Simon the Zealot**—former member of a revolutionary Jewish group to overthrow Rome; **12) Judas Iscariot**—the one who betrayed Christ.

PART #3 – The instruction to the twelve apostles. **10:5-15**

(Teaching #1) - Do not take your ministry to the Gentiles or Samaritans. **10:5**

These twelve were not to go to Gentile cities or Samaritan cities. A Samaritan was a mixed breed—half Jew/half Gentile.

(Teaching #2) - Only take your ministry to the lost sheep of Israel. **10:6**

(Teaching #3) - They are to preach the kingdom message. **10:7**

Specifically they were to preach “the kingdom of the heavens” message to Israel that the King’s presence was on earth and He could set up Israel’s kingdom if the nation would repent and respond to Him. This was not the Gospel of grace.

(Teaching #4) - They were to substantiate their preaching by kingdom healings. **10:8**

These miracles were for kingdom substantiation (Matt. 12:28). Dr. McGee said these were their Messianic “credentials” (Vol. 4, p. 57). It may be observed that this was an entire package—they could do everything here.

(Teaching #5) - They were not to focus their attention on the accumulation of wealth. **10:9-10**

The reason why they were not to focus their attention on accumulating things they needed is in the last part of **verse 10**—“for the worker is worthy of his support.” One of the ways that God would show his apostles where they were supposed to be is through the support they would receive for their ministry. They were to go to Israel and those Israeli’s who sensed these are powerful men sent by God would support them. There would come a day when Jesus would tell these same apostles they had to somewhat take care of themselves (Luke 22:35-36). Paul would later teach in the Church dispensation that those who preach the Gospel should make their living at it (I Cor. 9:14).

(Teaching #6) - They were to stay in places with people who took care of them. **10:11-13**

A “worthy” house in this context would be a Jewish home of people who realized Jesus was the Messiah and who would take in these apostles and care for them.

(Teaching #7) - They were to leave places where they were not received. **10:14-15**

When these apostles were not received, they were not to hang around and hope things would change. They were to shake the dust off their feet and leave, and go down the road to the next place that really wanted their ministry. But notice the end of **verse 14**—severe judgment comes to one who has heard the truth but rejected the truth.