

Matthew 10.1-15

The Year to Reach Many Sheep

SHEEP are BAAAAAACK and Filling our FAIR City of Beijing Again

Year of Sheep: Means something Chinese Zodiac for Me, Sheep Turning 60

Christians called SHEEP / Lord Jesus Christ > Great Shepherd of the Sheep

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd... “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers”  
Matthew 9.36,37

Having ASKED for LABORERS / Now Jesus will APPOINT their LEADERS

2<sup>nd</sup> of 5 Sermons in Matthew > Develops Full Picture of Christian Life

5 Sermons in Matthew – Composites of Jesus’ Sermons edited by Matthew

UNLIKELY that Jesus ever PREACHED in ONE SETTING / ALL from HIM

1<sup>st</sup> Sermon: On Mount – WHAT is Disciple? > DEFINE Christian’s Character

2<sup>nd</sup> What Followers DO? Define Christian’s CALLING - INVITE Others Follow

In this sermon, the King had something to say to all of His servants – past, present, and future.  
Warren Wiersbe

## 1. The Messengers

Up till NOW in Matthew > Jesus FOLLOWERS called DISCIPLES

Now Meet NEW Group called APOSTLES – Only time Word used in Matthew

a. Once for All – Not Account of their CONVERSION but CALLING

Never was there so important an ordination! Never was there so solemn a charge!  
John Ryle

v. 1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

NOT just CALLED > Called TO HIM / Became 12 Leaders of NEW ISRAEL

Calling Follows MODEL of Training like ANCIENT Guilds of PROPHETS

Just as ELIJAH trained ELISHA – SAMUEL led SCHOOL for the Prophets

Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” Matthew 19.28

The spiritual community built on this foundation of the twelve leaders of Israel’s remnant represents the true heir of God’s ancient promises. Craig Keener

vs. 2-4 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

List of 12 Apostles – 4 X’s in Gospels – Each time PETER Named FIRST  
 MOST Apostles NEVER Mentioned Anywhere else Except LIST  
 CORPORATE Role as THE 12 More Important than Individual Contribution  
 MANY WOMEN Disciples – But NO Women APOSTLES  
 In JESUS these Galileans found ONENESS and UNITY

Only get Brief BIO INFO on 4 or 5 THEM > BIBLE is NOT History Channel  
 12 ORDINARY People, Not Distinguished ACADEMICS or Religious Leaders  
 God delighted in and still delights in building his church with such seemingly insufficient and slightly contorted building materials. Douglas Sean O’Donnell

“APOSTLE” from GREEK word meaning ‘TO SEND’

An apostle’s role is similar to that of the ‘go between’ who arranges marriages in many African societies...does not act in his own interests...an agent of one family sent to another family with a message to make arrangements for a marriage. A go-between does not take liberties with the bride, as the Bemba put it, “*Inkombe: taikata pa cinema*” (“a messenger does not place his hand on the lower part of the abdomen”). Joe Kapolyo, Zambia

### 3 Qualifications of N.T. APOSTLES -

1. Called PERSONALLY by JESUS CHRIST – carry His FULL AUTHORITY

N.T. APOSTOLIC – Most Written by Apostles, or STUDENTS – Luke, Mark

2. EYE-WITNESSES of Jesus Christ – LAST One to SEE Him was PAUL

Blinded by Vision – Abnormally Born – Called to be Apostle to GENTILES

3. Workers of MIRACLES – SIGNS that Accompany & Attest to WORD

NT records 30 Miracles of Jesus / 10 of Apostles >> WORD and WITNESS

ACTS – MIRACLES done by Apostles, represent Jesus, power of Holy Spirit

Paul - FINAL Apostle: Met Jesus Damascus Road going to KILL Christians

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience,  
with signs and wonders and mighty works. 2 Corinthians 12.12

TITLE of Apostle does NOT designate STATUS but FUNCTION

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ Titus 1.1

Not TITLE for INSTITUTIONAL Leadership but FOR MISSION

A. NOT Rank HIGHER in Importance to Pastor, Elder, Evangelist, Christian

They, like every Christian, have a PARTICULAR Job do for Glory of JESUS

We cannot fail to be impressed with the majesty of the Savior, whose drawing power, incomparable wisdom, and matchless love were so astounding that he was able to gather round himself and to unite into one family of entirely different, at times even opposite, backgrounds and temperaments... Peter the optimist, Thomas the pessimist; Simon the... Zealot, hated taxes and was eager to overthrow the Roman government, also Matthew, who collected taxes for Rome

William Hendriksen

b. Until He Comes – All Bible is FOR Us, NOT All is ABOUT Us!

v. 1 And he *called* to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority...

He's not talking to you, Stupid!

Dick Lucas

Retired Pastor in London – Lucas Lessons – How to Rightly Understand Bible

What is ORIGINAL AUTHOR saying to ORIGINAL AUDIENCE??

Matthew writing to Early Church > Jesus talking to Newly MINTED Apostles

Unique APPOINTMENT - 12 Comprise FOUNDATION of the CHURCH

...the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone Ephesians 2.20

CITY where REDEEMED will Spend ETERNITY > Reminder of 12 Men

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve  
names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21.14

And I believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Nicene Creed

APOSTOLIC – N.T. Church – STAND on Foundation of FINAL Revelation

APOSTLES had UNIQUE Calling – But ALL Believers have A CALLING...

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, *called*  
to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our  
Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours 1 Corinthians 1.2

CALLING is UNCHANGEABLE, ETERNAL – Forever with God in Christ

Occupations, Relationships, Jobs, Stages of Life – CHANGE

ALWAYS called to FOLLOW & SERVE Jesus > Now and Forever

Student & Worker // Single, Married, Widowed // Member, Minister, Retired

NOT Calling to Marry, Student, Pastor > CHOICE to Serve for a SEASON

LOSE: SPOUSE or JOB or CHURCH > Never lose Calling Son or Daughter

PRINCIPLES of Mission remain FOREVER the SAME > Call people to God  
 vs. 7,8 And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’  
 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

RISEN Jesus sends GLOBAL Church to ALL NATIONS focus on WORD

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the  
 Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I  
 have commanded you. Matthew 28.19,20

WORD: Jesus & Apostles DID Miracles, Proved Authority, Established Gospel

What NOT There: Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

GOSPEL is ESTABLISHED – ENOUGH Signs in Faithful Record of Scripture

I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was  
 once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3

GOSPEL is an ANNOUNCEMENT – GREAT News: Love of God in Christ!

God became Man - Sinless Life - Substitutionary Death - Bodily Resurrection

DECLARATION brings DEMANDS – REPENT and BELIEVE

To make disciples for this king is to proclaim the good news that God’s future  
 kingdom is already active in this age. Craig Keener

Half of the diseases of Christianity have arisen from mistaken notions about the  
 minister’s office. J.C. Ryle

Word was Presented to Apostles
Word is Proclaimed by Church
Authority of Apostles was Magisterial
Authority of Church is Ministerial
Spirit inspired Apostles to Invent Scripture
Spirit illumines Church to Interpret Scripture

“Thus says the Lord...”

The BIBLE says...

Jesus Lordship over all areas

Jesus Word applied to all areas

Gospel of Matthew, his words, style

Discover and Apply Message

## 2. The Message

### a. Scope

vs. 5,6 These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

LUCAS Lesson – He’s NOT Talking to YOU – SAINTS!!

MANY People NEED Jesus right HERE in Beijing – Hard to find Samaritans

### 1) Training

First step of ministry among those who KNOW YOU – R U Ready to GO?

We Best Understand those People who you have BEEN RAISED WITH

How can we TAKE Ancient Message and apply to our CHANGING World?

1<sup>st</sup> Jewish Christians STRUGGLED Meaning/Implications GLOBAL GOSPEL

Took 10 yrs – and Killing of Stephen – to thrust Church OUT of Jerusalem!

Director of Seminary in KZ – Biggest Challenge was our UNITY

Historic STRIFE between Russians, Kazakhs, Uighurs, Uzbeks, other groups

Developed Program FORCE Together – Study, Serving, Living, Sharing

Russian Driver Victor took me to KAZAKH Church meeting going to Preach

Felt Tension – from him & them – when we Walked In

Shared Testimonies around Circle – God set free from BONDAGE of ISLAM

Victor – began to Cry – Church with Grandfather – Russian Baptists 1960’s

Prayed FERVENTLY, TEARFULLY “God save Kazakh people!”

IMPOSSIBLE! Gospel was ILLEGAL in Soviet Union / KZ were MUSLIM

1990’s New Republic of KZ, Greatest turning of Muslims to X in Church History

**PROVE yourself FAITHFUL in SMALL Things and be GIVEN More**

## 2) Tactical

v. 11 And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.

DISCIPLES can Travel Light as they rely on Hospitality from STRANGERS

By this time there were no doubt people in most Galilean villages who had been among the crowds following Jesus, and such sympathizers would likely to be willing hosts for his disciples. R.T. France

ZGC Challenge Ministry: Where can we Meet? How can we find Venue? Funds?

2 Weeks Conf in Another Country – Invited by Group of Pastors for Conference

INVITATION includes WISH List > What we can GIVE to THEM!

Explained: Normal Practice when USA leaders Come – Give us STUFF!

Seen Church in Poverty and War – that Church was GENEROUS, Humbling!

Apostle JOHN – 2 Short Letters back of our NT

2 John – WARNING Letter > Do NOT Receive FALSE TEACHERS

3 John – WELCOME Letter > Do NOT Refuse Hospitality for TRUE Teachers

Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to *send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God*. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. 3 John 5-8

Find PERSON of Worth / i.e. Place of WELCOME – Don't Look for UPGRADE

What MOVIES do Have? – No WIFI? – Don't even ROAST their COFFEE?!!

Travel for Gospel we can See HOW SPOILED we ARE!

First M Trip – 10 Sem Students / 2 Prof > Orphanage in Kampala in Dec 1980

Prayer Meetings every Night / Darkness, Fear, Shooting /Bodies on Street in AM  
Share 1 Squatty Potty w/ 300 Orphan Kids, Sights, Smells, Sickness NUCLEAR

One Brother – Could Not Hold Nose and Rush thru his Business

CLEANED Put on Gloves – Scrubbed, Washed, Disinfected, Burned Candles  
Out ALL Day come back Home to Orphanage > Happy Place VERY SAD Again

LONGEST Month of my LIFE and BEST Month of My Life!!

Toilet Cleaning Brother – Ph.d. Theology – Serves Jesus & Church Hard Places

### 3) Theological

HISTORICAL Setting of FIRST MISSION > Call children of Abe to Follow

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to  
everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1.16

Jesus is FINAL PROPHET, ETERNAL PRIEST, and DAVIDIC KING

“My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray...”  
Jeremiah 50.6

When Jesus TRAVELED to GENTILE Region of Tyre & Sidon

Approached by Demon Possessed CANAANITE Woman for MERCY

Jesus: “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” Matthew 15.24

STERN Words of his answer shows NARROW Focus of EARTHLY Ministry

JEWS of JESUS DAY > Divide into 2 Groups

1. Law Keeping, Kosher, Ceremonially Clean > BLESSED by God – Very FEW

2. LOST – Jewish Blood but NOT Jewish BEHAVIOR – NOT Good Enough

Jesus SPECIAL FOCUS on these LOST – Sinners, Tax Collectors, Prostitutes

GREAT Physician came to bring HEALING & HOPE to the SIN-SICK

Narrow Geographical FOCUS Remained during JESUS LIFE / Ministry on Earth  
Being IN THE FACE of Jewish Religious Leaders ENDED His Life on Earth

Jesus to Jewish Leaders: “I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits...” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them...they were seeking to arrest him  
Matthew 21.43-46

GLOBAL Scope of Mission on Jesus' HORIZON from BEGINNING

many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven  
Matthew 8.11

AFTER His Death / Resurrection > GLOBAL Mission was LAUNCHED

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations  
Matthew 24.14

b. Signs – By WORD and DEED – Show KINGDOM has COME!

vs. 7,8 And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’  
Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

BOTH John Baptist & Jesus Already ANNOUNCED Kingdom of God Coming

The disciples are to say and do what He has already said and done. R.T. France

APOSTLES HERE Delegated to DO what Jesus DID in chapters 8 & 9

Healing MORE than just Random Acts of Kindness = Kingdom NOW Come!

v. 7 And proclaim as you go... ITINERANT Mission, Not Settled Ministry

PREACH Word FAITHFULLY // PRAY for others FERVENTLY

Bring them TO GOD who ALONE can MEET All their NEEDS

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3.18

### 3. The Meeting

#### a. Greeting Received

vs. 8-10 You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.

**FREELY** have we **RECEIVED**, thus we **FREELY GIVE**

Gospel Ministers – Should **NOT** be like Lawyers who Charge by the Hour

**PRAYERS** and **PREACHING** Gifts of **LOVE** – **FREELY** Given

Our simplicity, urgency, and even austerity should embody the gospel since the gospel is not about worldly wealth, power, or security. Douglas Sean O'Donnell

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

Isaiah 55.1

Sense of **URGENCY** – We don't **KNOW WHEN** the World will **END**

Do **NOT WORRY** about Material **NEEDS** – God, thru His People Provide

Restless Compulsion > **TRAVEL LIGHT**, Keep Moving, **MANY** to **REACH**

This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7.29-31

Took **TON** – Not Quite Literally – Theology books to **AFRICA** – Left in Library

Became Pastor in **USA** – Got **ANOTHER** Ton – Almost of Books

Shipped to **KZ** – Left **MOST** of them there for **GOSPEL WORKERS**

Wife returned **USA** recently – Not Sure **WHY** got Free Bag Airline > **BOOKS!**

A church whose members are preoccupied with material concerns finds it hard to convince the world that it should take God seriously. R.T. France

*The gospel must be offered without price.* Everyone knows there are costs associated even with preaching the gospel; if nothing else, the preacher has to eat. But the gospel is the message of God's free grace to us in Jesus Christ, and it is always jarring, contradictory, and sometimes blatantly sinful when a price is placed upon the preaching...fixing a price on preaching has destroyed both ministers and their ministries. James Boice

vs. 12,13 As you enter the house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Word of PEACE will find PERSON of PEACE - Greeting brings BLESSING

PEACE is NOT Just SOCIAL FORMALITY, True Sign of Blessing or Judgment

Gives MISSION Sense of SOMBER URGENCY > Eternal Consequences

b. Judgment Reserved Not everyone will WELCOME Jesus Messengers

v. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

“Peace to this house”...is an effective blessing which goes out provided that it is suitably received; if not, it will have no effect, but will “return” like an uncashed check...to be the willing hosts of such messengers is indeed a blessing, but to oppose them is to forfeit God's peace, because to receive them is to receive Jesus, and to receive Jesus is receive God. R.T. France

v. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.

Sometimes REJECTION Comes from Person, their Family, Village, City, Nation

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”...And *Jesus, looking at him, loved him*, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor...” *Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful*, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were amazed at his words. Mark 10.17-24

Jesus LOVED this one who REFUSES to Follow  
 LOVES AND LEAVES him – Standard of Truth, Demand of Gospel Held High  
 Of COURSE Church Today: Welcome and Love ALL Sinners

Welcome them to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior given us Word of God  
 Word > Reveals God, Truth about all of Life – Who we Are, What we Do!  
 Being CLEAR & Faithful to God & Word > Sad, Hard, Lonely – People Leave!

One time Apostles FOLLOWS Command Leave & Shake Off: Gospel Advances  
 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word  
 of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word  
 of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews...stirred up  
 persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But  
 they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And  
 the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. Acts 13.48-52

GOAL – God GLORIFIED, People SAVED, Disciples filled JOY in Holy Spirit

v. 15 Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the  
 land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

10 Righteous People COULD HAVE Saved Sodom and Gomorrah

Welcome and Love ALL Sinners – Gay & Straight – Welcome & WARN Them

FATE of Cities and People that SAW Jesus and Rejected Him will be WORSE  
 In Jesus FULLNESS of God Appeared – Kingdom Come because King Came  
 To whom SO MUCH has been GIVEN – So Much More will be REQUIRED  
 Reject JESUS is to Foolish Reject the JUDGE we'll Meet at Final Judgment

Jesus insists that one's eternal destiny turns on relationship to him or even his  
 emissaries...Those who received them received Him. Their greeting was of real  
 value because of their relationship to him. Loss of their greeting was loss of their  
 presence and therefore loss of Jesus.

D.A. Carson

Matthew 10:<sup>1</sup> And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. <sup>2</sup>The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup>but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. <sup>9</sup>Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, <sup>10</sup>no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. <sup>11</sup>And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. <sup>12</sup>As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup>And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup>And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.