

THE TWELVE APOSTLES SENT

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 10:1-42

LESSON 81 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 10:1-42 (KJV)

¹ And when he had called unto *him* his twelve disciples, he gave them power *against* unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother;

³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

⁷ And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

⁹ Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,

¹⁰ Nor scrip for *your* journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

¹¹ And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.

¹² And when ye come into an house, salute it.

¹³ And if the house be worthy, let

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Call of the Twelve Disciples to the Ministry

1 They are empowered to do the work for which they are called, Matthew 10:1;

Mark 3:14-15 (KJV)

¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

¹⁵ And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Luke 9:1-2 (KJV)

¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

2 The names of the twelve, now called Apostles, are listed, Matthew 10:2-4;

Mark 3:16-19 (KJV)

¹⁶ And Simon he surnamed Peter;

¹⁷ And James the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:

¹⁸ And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,

¹⁹ And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

3 Their ministry is limited to the House of Israel, Matthew 10:5, 6;

Romans 1:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

II Instructions Concerning Their Ministry

1 They are to preach and heal without charge, Matthew 10:7, 8;

Mark 16:20 (KJV)

²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Acts 20:35 (KJV)

³⁵ I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

2 They are not to take money or extra apparel with them, Matthew 10:9, 10;

Matthew 6:31-32 (KJV)

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Luke 10:3-7 (KJV)

³ Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

⁴ Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

⁵ And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house.

⁶ And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

⁷ And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

3 They are to abide at the house which *receives* them, and rejecters are judged, Matthew 10:11-15; Acts 13:51; I Corinthians 9:14; Luke 10:10-12

your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

¹⁴ And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

¹⁸ And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

²¹ And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death.

²² And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

²³ But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

²⁴ The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord.

²⁵ It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the

III Persecution and Perils

- 1 Like their Lord, they will be hated of all men for the Gospel's sake, and brought before the council, Matthew 10:18-25; Luke 10:3; John 15:18; 16:33
- 2 There is coming a time when every man's true character will be revealed, Matthew 10:26, 27; I Corinthians 3:13; Romans 2:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14
- 3 They are not to fear men but God, who notes the sparrow's fall and cares for His children, Matthew 10:28-31; 6:25-33
- 4 The reward for open confession of Christ; the curse for denial, Matthew 10:32, 33; Revelation 3:5; Luke 9:26; Titus 1:16
- 5 Their foes will be of their own household, Matthew 10:34-37; Romans 8:35
- 6 Unselfishness is a prime requisite for eternal life, Matthew 10:38, 39; 16:24, 25; Mark 8:34, 35; Matthew 6:19, 20; Luke 12:33; John 12: 24-26
- 7 A blessing will come upon those who receive His ministers, Matthew 10:40-42

NOTES:

Harvest Fields White

Just prior to sending out the twelve disciples, Jesus was very busy healing the sick and casting out devils. The multitudes had thronged Him He was moved with compassion and said to His disciples: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." The people were also spiritually sick; they needed a "physician." Their hopes had perished; they needed reviving.

Centuries have passed and we find that the world is in the same condition today. The call for laborers is still going forth; the harvest fields are white but the laborers are few. Can we sit idly by and see the lost and dying as they perish, without doing our best to see the Gospel spread?

Calling the Disciples

Jesus was walking along the shores of Galilee one day and saw Peter and Andrew fishing. He called them from their nets to follow Him.

They straightway left their nets and followed Jesus. A little farther down the shore He saw James and John mending their nets, and He called them also to follow Him. They immediately left their nets and followed Jesus. What a response to the call of the Gospel! The Spirit of God is knocking at the door of every heart today. How few are "immediately" leaving all to follow Jesus!

We find other disciples called from different occupations—Matthew from the receipt of custom. They had all witnessed the ministry of Jesus and His manner of healing the sick. This was a period of learning; they were just babes in Christ and they must receive instruction in righteousness. Paul says, That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:17). It has been said that the best preparation for the ministry is acquaintance and communication with God.

His Teachings and Doctrine

These disciples did not receive their instructions in a training school or seminary, as is the usual method in modern times, but they were trained through daily fellowship and

servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household?

²⁶ Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

²⁷ What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops.

²⁸ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

³¹ Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

³⁴ Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

³⁶ And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household.

³⁷ He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

³⁸ And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

contact with Jesus while following Him in His ministry. One time Jesus thanked the Father because He had hid these things from the wise and prudent and had revealed them unto babes — simple hearted men who would believe the truth.

In the modern church today, emphasis is placed on much learning, and worldly wisdom, which all too often results in the neglect of the spiritual side and being genuinely born again. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Today we still become personally acquainted with Jesus by being born again.

Apostles

The twelve were originally called disciples. Now they are sent forth and called Apostles. A disciple is one who receives instructions from and follows another; an apostle is a messenger sent forth. The call of the disciple is a call to learning; the call of the apostle is to go forth.

It was not accidental that He chose twelve men to be the ones through whom His Church was to be established. This number coincides with the twelve patriarchs or fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. In Revelation we are told that the names of the twelve Apostles are in the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem.

The names of the Apostles are listed by two's, and it is possible that they were sent out as they are listed, by two's.

The Jews First

Christ came to His own — the Jews. His ministry on earth was directed primarily to them. He sent His disciples first to the Jews; but because of their unbelief and rejection of Christ, the Gospel was then carried to the Gentiles. Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). "To the Greek" here means to the Gentiles.

Christ did not refuse to give the Gentiles the truth when they came to Him. When the Syrophenician woman, whose daughter was plagued, came to Him, Jesus told her it was not meet to take the children's bread and give it to dogs. She said, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table" (Matthew 15:27), Jesus honored her faith and healed her daughter. She was a Gentile but she had a view of the real truth when she spoke those words.

Instructions for Their Ministry

They were to provide neither gold nor silver in their purses, nor scrip for their journey: For the workman is worthy of his meat." How different from the worldly religious organizations of today! Some modern evangelists demand a guarantee of a certain salary before they accept an appointment.

Into whatever town they entered they were to enquire who was worthy; and when they came into a house, if they were received they were to abide there and let their peace come upon it; but if they were refused they were to shake off the dust from their feet as a testimony against that house or city.

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves." Since our first forefathers sinned there has been a continuous battle raging in this world between the forces of darkness and the forces of light. Jesus admonished the Apostles to be "wise as serpents" — alert to every opportunity to testify for their Lord. "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). And they were

³⁹ He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

⁴⁰ He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

⁴¹ He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Name the twelve Apostles.
- 2 To whom were the twelve Apostles sent?
- 3 What came upon a household that received them?
- 4 If a city failed to receive them, what were the Apostles to do?
- 5 Did the Lord come to bring peace or division in the world?
- 6 What place should our fathers and mothers have in our hearts?
- 7 Why were the Apostles not to charge for preaching the Gospel?
- 8 When Jesus sent the Apostles forth to preach, how many were to go together?

not to be ignorant of the devices of the devil. At the same time they were to be "harmless as doves" — meek and gentle in the face of ridicule or persecution. Jesus warned them that they would be persecuted for His sake, and would be delivered up to the council; but He told them to fear none of those things. We are not to fear those who falsely accuse us, for God will vindicate the righteous. There is coming a day when God will reveal the secrets of men, and every man's work will be manifested whether it be of God. What they had learned of Jesus they were to preach publicly to all the world, fearing not persecutors, for God was watching over them, and their soul no man could touch. They were rather to fear God who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

A man's foes shall be they of his own household. Sometimes our most severe persecutors are those from our own family. In some cases the household becomes divided: the parents against the children, and the children against the parents, because some are saved and believe on Jesus and others reject Him.

After presenting the hardships of the Gospel to the Apostles, Jesus tells them of the love and protection of their heavenly Father, and reassures them that not a sparrow falls without His notice and that they are of more value than many sparrows.

These instructions to the twelve contain some wonderful advice for us today: to be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves"; to expect hardships; to trust in God's unfailing care of His own; and to keep our eyes fixed on the eternal goal.

We must be true to the calling which God has given us, filling our place in the Gospel work, whether it be great or small; day by day bearing patiently the cross the affliction or trial — which comes to us in the carrying out of our duties in the home, in providing for material needs. or directly in the work of the Lord; and in being true to His standards of righteousness; all the while unselfishly seeking the welfare of others.

Kingdom of Heaven

They were to go forth and preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" Jesus, and also John the Baptist, had preached the same message. There were no newspapers, radios, or telegraph wires; the news must be spread by word of mouth.

In parables He told them about a literal kingdom that He would establish in the proper time. He spoke about a nobleman who went into a far country for a long time, to receive for Himself a kingdom and return. Christ is in that "country" now; He will soon return to receive His kingdom for which He has paid the price by His redemption of mankind. Then He will sit on the throne of His Kingdom. What a privilege for us today to accept this wonderful. Gospel and be ready to receive this great King when He comes for His own!