



Discipleship - Matthew 9:35-10:22

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

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. ² 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; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. 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. 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. 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. ¹⁶ "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, ²² and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

What is a disciple?

- ◆ Look at the life of Jesus
- ◆ We are _____ of Christ (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- ◆ We have the _____ of Christ (Matthew 9:36)
- ◆ We share in the _____ of Christ (Matthew 9:35; 10:1-8)
- ◆ We share in the _____ of Christ (Matthew 10:16-22)
- ◆ We share in the _____ of Christ (Matthew 10:22)

Further Study *for a deeper understanding*

Read Matthew 10:34-39

Why does Jesus tell his disciples that he will not bring peace to the earth, but a sword?

Is there anything that you love more than Jesus? How has this hindered your relationship with the Lord? Take time to confess this in prayer.

What does Jesus mean when he says in verse 39, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it”?

QUESTIONS *for discussion*

Which aspect of being a disciple gets you the most excited? The most afraid?

Jesus says, “Freely you have received; freely give.” What have you received from Jesus that you can give liberally?

What is your reaction to Jesus saying “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;”? What is the harvest? Who are the laborers?

Put yourself in the place of the disciples as Jesus sends them out. What are you feeling as he speaks these words of Matthew 10 to you?

What would a church look like that lives out Matthew 10?

Spend time praying for God to send out laborers into his harvest.