

Matthew 9:35-10:7 The King's Mission (The King and His Kingdom)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Ch. 10 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. 2 Now 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 Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

There is a fictional story – that has been told describing a conversation that took place between the Angel Gabriel and Jesus.

A)After the Cross – after the Resurrection – after Jesus ascended into Heaven.

B)Gab and Jesus are talking: Gab wants to know – what is the plan for reaching this lost world - -

Bb)People who just crucified Him

1)How are you going to get the gospel to them – share the Love your love?

C)Jesus says: You know those guys I spent the last 3 years hanging with

1) I am going to use them! – Gab – really those guys – James John Fire

2)Thomas the doubter – Peter denied 3X

D)That is your Plan? Jesus said Yep

1)Gab said: Do you have a plan B?

Interesting that of all the ways that God could use to reach lost people – He has chosen to use People who were once lost – to reach lost people!

A)People like you and I lost – Rescued – saved – to reach out to people who are lost – need rescued –

Bb)Help disconnected people get connected to God.

B)In our text today: We will see where Jesus sends his apostles out for a trial run! –

1)We want to glean a few insights about HOW he sent them out – today

2)Wednesday- full scope – today – Some key elements

C)The way that Jesus sends them out is the same WAY – he sends us into the world today!

But Before we look at how He sent them out – I want to first consider – the insight Matthew gives us about how Jesus see's people. 3 observations

#1 With Compassion: Because they were weary and scattered

A)He is not angry at them- He is not disgusted –

1)I point that out – because that is the way a lot of Christians look at Lost People.

B)Angry: Rotten sinners – Disgusted – Those people are so bad!

C)The only people Jesus looked at that way: Religious leaders –

1)Hypocrites and putting burdens on God's people

They angered Him

D)But the regular people: His heart broke:

1)Compassion: To be moved in your inwards – He felt their struggle deep in His inner person.

E)They were made for more than this:

#2 He saw them as sheep!

A)Sheep are Dumb! – Need to be led to Pasture – not find it on their own.

B) They fall over on side or back - they need help getting back up

C) **Interesting: Jesus compares us to one of the dumbest and neidiest animals that God made.**

Note: He doesn't see them as Clients - Some churches

A) He doesn't see them as giving Units -

B) He doesn't see them as commodities that can further his agenda

1) He sees them as Sheep - Who #3 need a Shepherd -

C) Sheep need a Shepherd to lead them! - That is us

1) Pastors sometimes ask - How many are you running? / **Running? - not running anyone -**

D) **Shepherds don't RUN THE SHEEP** - walk in front - they lead them.

1) Go to Israel - ever see someone running sheep - behind - driving them

2) Butcher - pushing them toward the Slaughter house

Jesus is the Good Shepherd: Leads His sheep - My sheep know My voice

A) Our problem is We want to be all independent and self sufficient - appeals to our pride

B) Pull ourselves up by the boot straps -

C) **Made by God as people who were designed to live in a relationship WITH and to be LED BY - A LOVING SHEPHERD!**

So that is the way that Jesus sees people. - Now lets consider - FOUR things about the way that Jesus sent out His disciples.

#1 WITH A VISION: V. 37 - He switches up the analogy "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

A) From sheep to a field of wheat: That is **RIPE TO RECEIVE GOD'S LOVE!**

B) Probably by a field: Look at that field - The world is like that - Ripe for Harvest.

C) Listen it is so important for us to See people the way that Jesus does!

Biggest dangers in the Church - we do not see beyond our own four walls

A) Thrive: Awesome - Fun dinner - good instruction on marriage

B) The thing that really gets me excited is the people who invite unsaved friends.

C) **Men's & Women's groups, Home groups - All great - awesome**

1) But the purpose of all of that - Equip us to live for Jesus - and share Jesus in a **LOST WORLD** - Harvest is ripe.

Multitudes, multitudes in the Valley of decision - for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. Joel 3:14

E) Shadowridge Church: I like how small it is - Not the purpose: Reach lost people!

1) More here in that year and half - 150 conversions

Notice: The first thing that Jesus asked them to do is to Pray: The Laborers are few!

A) Jesus is smart: You know what happens - start to pray for the needs of the Harvest? - **GET A BURDEN.**

B) If we don't have a **BURDEN** for lost people - something is wrong with our faith - **JESUS' HEART WAS BURDENED.**

C) So if you don't have a burden: Start praying for the lost people in your family

1) Neighborhood - work place -

D) **You will get a burden - YOU WILL DISCOVER You are going to be a part of the answer to YOUR OWN PRAYER.**

#2 He sent them to work: - Labor!

A) The Christian life is not a playground: We are so leisure driven in our culture.

B) So entertainment driven: There is nothing wrong with watching a good movie - going to a ball game.

1) What is wrong is when your life revolves around that! -

C)I am going to make a statement now I really want you to consider: **If you are always looking toward the weekend –**

1)Because that is when you rest – play – entertain yourself – **YOU ARE MISSING out big time – purpose for your existence**

D)Your sphere of Influence – **MISSION FIELD!**

Until you start seeing it that way: Called to a work – Called to represent Jesus to a dying world – never experience abundant life – called to.

A)You and I are **STILL PLAN A** – not because God needs us – but he wants to bless us.

B)Many Christians work their **40-50 hrs** – see their job as a necessary burden: **They look forward to Friday- Time off – away**

1)Family – Friends – Church – Leisure – Fun

C)I pray that you have a change of perspective: Start looking forward to Monday with an excitement: MY MISSION FIELD

1)That will happen if you start praying for the people in your life who do not know Jesus.

D)GOD Will start giving you opportunities – Blow your mind

1)Greatest things in life is to know that you have impacted another soul for **ETERNITY – your witness – your sharing..... Huge in heaven**

E)My biggest struggle about being in full time ministry: I miss that!

1)I am surrounded all day – People who love Jesus – or with Christians who are being rebellious –

2) **LOVE WHAT I DO!**

But when I worked at the Hotel – Grocery Store – I finally realized – I exist to make an impact -

A)Everyday was exciting – Open for conversations: One conversation would lead to another

B)One person would hear about my conversation with someone else – they would want to ask me a question too!

C)I never knew what the next day would bring!

1)I miss that – I have to be very intentional – **NEIGHBORS** – Gym – or Coffee Shop or restaurants –

SO Jesus sends them with a Vision: Harvest is Ripe – Pray - He sends them to LABOR – WORK

#3 He sent them in Power: 10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

A)He gave them Power: US too – He has given us His Holy Spirit!

B)The same power that brought Jesus from the grave has been given to us!

1)More than conquerors – greater is He in you.....

C)Ephesians 5:18 –**Be continually being filled :** Daily empowering: Don't go off into your Day

D)Man who bought a new desk top computer: Set it all up – but he couldn't get it to turn on.

LEMON?

1)Just then – **Six year old daughter came into the room** – Daddy that is a pretty computer – can I plug it in for you.

I think it is interesting that Matthew at this point names all the disciples

A)Reason: **ORDINARY GUYS:** No super stars in this crowd.

B)Prior to meeting Jesus – these guys were not known for anything!

1)Especially anything in a spiritual context.

C)Yet – book of Acts tells us – that these guys turned the world upside down!

1)Reminder to us – Jesus uses the **ORDINARY – TO DO** the extra-ordinary

D)HE DOES GREAT THINGS with NORMAL PEOPLE!

I also find it interesting that the only Disciple that Matthew mentions his occupation is himself – Matthew a tax collector.

A)Two reasons: For anyone who wrestles with feeling like your past is too horrible for God to use you. Matthew says: look at me – **THE WORST**

B) Another reason I think he mentions it – is because He is still in awe that Jesus saved him at all!

C) Little Jr High boy: Communion – Crying

1) Lord work in my heart in that way.

D) We need to make sure – plugged in to the power source.

1) Everyday: Reliance upon the Spirit

Jesus sent them out in Power – He made sure they were equipped – He does the same thing with us: Empowers and Equips

#4 He sent them out with a message: 7 And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

A) Our Message: The gospel – Good News – There is Hope

1) Jesus died and Rose – Lives – Forgiveness of sins – peace with God

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ROMANS 1:16

B) POWER IS IN THE MESSAGE: NOT THE MESSENGER

C) Listen if you won Publishers 10 million: Do you care who delivers the news -

1) Just as long as they have the authority to give you the Check

D) Our authority! – Gospel that transforms –

1) Power to change a life