

Jesus: No Spin

Matthew Chapter Ten: Now It's Your Turn

personal / group study for use with the message of November 22nd and 23rd, 2008

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Isaiah 6:8

Jesus taught His followers to pray for more workers for the harvest field. Then He sends them out into the field. Are you involved in the 'harvest field' that you live in? Pray for more workers and then watch for how you can be an answer to that prayer.

Introduction.

In their book *Lost in America*, Tom Clegg and Warren Bird say: "The way Christians do church today is the equivalent of ignoring millions of desperate, but unrecognized, cries for help. We're letting an increasing number of our neighbors and friends die without a personal exposure to the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ. Unless we make some drastic changes, many people are likely to perish, and we'll fail in the mission of what God has called us to become and do."

Read.

Matthew 9:36-38: *"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.'"*

Matthew 10:1-42: *"1He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

2These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

5These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; 10take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

11"Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. 12As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. 15I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. 16I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

17"Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. 18On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. 19But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

21"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 22All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 23When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24"A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

26"So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. 30And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. 33But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn

" 'a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law -
36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

40 "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. 41 Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

*All scripture taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

Questions.

This week you will notice that there was a transition between Jesus doing miracles and Him sending His followers out to do miracles.

The disciples hadn't been following Jesus very long, they hadn't been to seminary and yet Jesus sent them out to preach, teach, and heal! Rick Warren says in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*: "the **last** thing many believers (in Christ) need today is to go to another Bible study. **They already know far more than they are putting into practice.** What they need are serving experiences in which **they can exercise their spiritual muscles**...Most of the time we're more interested in 'serve us' than service."

ThinkAboutIt...

1. Where is Jesus sending you?
2. Are people today "harassed and helpless"?

ReflectOnIt...

3. Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to take any provisions with them? What do you think Jesus wants them to understand?
4. What does Jesus teach them about persecution? Also see 1 Peter 4:12-17
5. Read verses 34-39, and Deut. 33:9-10, what is Jesus teaching about family and about discipleship?
6. There are some heavy teachings in this chapter, do you find any encouragement in this chapter? See verses 29-33

RespondToIt...

7. How did the nation Israel respond to Jesus? How have you responded?
 8. How do your prayers and money connect you with others believers serving around the world?
- **When Jesus came, "He announced the Kingdom of Heaven. A Kingdom of peace and wholeness, extending to every facet of life: the sick healed, the captives freed, the oppressed released, right relationships restored with God and humanity. Christianity is a way of seeing all of life and reality through God's eye. That is what Christianity is: a worldview, a system, and a way of life. I believe that when you truly see the gospel in its fullness, it's so much more. It is the most exciting, radical, revolutionary story ever told." - Chuck Colson**

Extra.

Do a word study on the word SWORD. Read Matthew 10:34, Matthew 26:52, Luke 2:35. Do you have a balanced understanding of what Jesus is teaching?