



Week Eight

Mission of the King

Matthew 10

Read and Summarize

Read chapter 10. Provide a brief summary in one to two sentences, using your own words to capture the main events.

Matthew 10

Clarifying the Context

1. In the Sermon on the Mount, we see Jesus teaching His disciples what it means to be Kingdom citizens. Now we are going to see Him begin to teach them what it means to be Kingdom ambassadors as He sends them out on mission. The idea of the mission of God was not new. Throughout the Old Testament, Israel was called to be on mission as a people group. It was a “centripetal” mission, meaning “drawing [people] in” (e.g., Rahab), as opposed to the “centrifugal” mission of the New Testament where Jesus “sent out” his messengers. Read Exodus 19:4-6.
 - a. What was the mission of the 12 tribes of Israel in their new land?
 - b. What did God intend to do through them? (Hint: think about what priests are supposed to do.)

Digging into the Details

Matthew 10

- 2.** Jesus sends out the twelve with His message and power.
 - a.** What authority did Jesus give them for the mission?

 - b.** In verse 1, these men are called disciples, but in verse 2, they are called apostles. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

- 3.** Isaiah 35 is a messianic prophecy announcing the restoration of God's people. Read Isaiah 35 and list the things that would happen when the Messiah came.

- 4.** Read Matthew 10:5-15.
 - a.** To whom does Jesus send the apostles?

 - b.** To whom does Jesus forbid them to go?

 - c.** Why do you think Jesus sends the apostles only to Israel at that time? (See Romans 1:16 & 9:4-5, Deuteronomy 7:6-7)

- d.** What will be the proof of their message?

- e.** What do you think Jesus means when He says, “You received without paying; give without pay.”?

- f.** Do you think this principle applies to sharing the gospel today? If so, how?

- g.** How does Jesus tell the apostles to prepare for their journey? Why do you think that is the case?

- h.** Identify one area in your life where you struggle to trust God for provision (e.g., finances, time, career). How can you take a step of faith there this week?

i. What will happen to those who reject the message of the apostles? (See Genesis 19)

j. Why do you think it will be worse for those Israelites who reject the message than it was for Sodom and Gomorrah?

5. In verses 16-23, Jesus is preparing His disciples for a larger mission than the initial mission to the lost sheep of Israel. Jesus expands the depth of the troubles that they will face as their mission grows larger. While verses 5-15 were context-specific to the apostles at that time and place, verses 16-23 can apply to all followers of Christ.

a. What warnings does Jesus give the disciples in verses 16-18?

b. What encouragement does Jesus give them in verse 18b about the greater purpose their suffering will serve?

c. What comfort does He give them in verses 19-21 to keep them from being anxious?

- d.** Read Galatians 4:6 and 2 Corinthians 1:22. If you are a follower of Jesus, you also have the same Spirit living in you that the disciples are promised in these verses. Is there an area of anxiety in your life that could be comforted by this reminder? Write about it below.

- e.** In verse 22, why does Jesus say the disciples will be hated?

- f.** What is the encouragement He gives them in verse 22b?

- 6.** Verses 24-42 describe the characteristics of missionary disciples. These general characteristics apply to all disciples as they carry out Jesus' mission to the world. List the characteristics of a missionary disciple that Jesus describes.

- 7.** When faced with persecution, it is the human tendency to want to preserve one's own life by denying Christ.

 - a.** What does Jesus say about those who deny Him versus those who acknowledge Him?

- b. Have you ever been in a situation where you were embarrassed or afraid to claim Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Describe.
 - c. How can you use what you have learned in Matthew 10 in those situations?
8. Much of the Christian world wants only to see Jesus as love and peace. But Jesus said, "I came not to bring peace but a sword."
- a. What do you think He meant by that?
 - b. Have you ever felt hostility from family members or friends because of your belief in Jesus? How?
9. Crucifixion, a symbol of death, was a shocking metaphor that Jesus used to describe discipleship.
- a. What does it mean to "take up your cross and follow Me"?
 - b. What area of comfort or personal desire is Jesus asking you to "die to" in order to follow Him more closely?

10. In verse 39, Jesus says, “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” What does this paradox mean to you?

11. What kind of reward will one who speaks for God receive?

Attribute of God & Application

- What did this week’s study reveal to you about King Jesus and His Kingdom?
- How does this chapter encourage or challenge you in your life currently?

**Spend some time praising God for who He is and for what He has done.
Ask Him to help you as you seek to live in light of His Word this week.**

