

May 28, 2017

The Mission of the Kingdom

Matthew 10:1-16

- In this second of five sermons, Jesus answers the need of **8:36-38** by sending His laborers into the harvest.

Commissioning the Laborers *(v. 1-16)*

- Jesus gives His disciples His authority in order to gather His sheep out of the world (**Col. 1:13**) and into His Kingdom.

1 Peter 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers...

- The number 12 is representative of the total number of the people of God to be saved, as the 12 tribes represented the whole house of Israel.

- Jesus began with God's covenant people ("the lost sheep of the House of Israel").

Acts 1:8 ...you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth [...fill the earth...Gen.1:28]

Gen.17:4

- The disciples are sent out with the Gospel Message of the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus is sending these disciples into the world as those who will image His character and His authoritative deeds (**4:23-25**).
- The signs anticipated the spiritual work of the Holy Spirit in preparing the hearts of God's lost sheep to be gathered into God's fold.

Acts 26:18 ...to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me...

- Jesus emphasizes the grace nature of the Kingdom—not of merit or for financial gain.
- During this season, Jesus wants them to learn to look to Him for their provision (**Heb. 12:1-2**). However, after the establishment of the church, the ministers may or may not receive compensation (**1 Tim. 5:18; 1 Cor. 9:12, 15-18**).
- Jesus warns them that their mission will experience two different responses: reception or rejection.
- Those who receive their message will be blessed with peace (**Rom. 5:1**). Those who reject their message will be judged.

John 15:18-19 *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.*

- Jesus is sending us as sheep into the midst of wolves. But hasn't God sent us into the world armed with the "full armor of God" (**Eph. 6:10-18?**)

2 Cor 10:4-5 *the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. [so that] 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ*

Rom. 8:37 *...we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us...*

- The answer:

2 Cor 4:7 *...we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power [dunamis] belongs to God and not to us*

- This is the same power of **Acts 1:8; Luke 1 :35, of Luke 4:14; of Rom. 1:16; of Rom. 15:19, of Eph.3:20.**

2 Cor 12:8-10 *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this [...thorn...], that it should leave me. 9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power [dunamis] is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me...10 for ...when I am weak, then I am strong [dunatos]*

1 Peter 5:6-8 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour...*