

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

As You Go, Preach!

Matthew 10:1-15

This past week, we elected a new “king” - and he’s already preparing to tear down the high places, like King Josiah. (listen to message from Wed)

Jesus, seeing him as King of Kings

We last left off:

- Matthew 9:35-38 NKJV - 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. But when He saw the multitudes, **He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. **Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**

Today:

- The first answer to those prayers:
disciples empowered with heavenly authority & sent out
- Spiritual forecast
- Instructions

Utmost for His Highest (11/8)

The circumstances of a saint’s life are ordained of God. In the life of a saint there is no such thing as chance. God by His providence brings you into circumstances that you cannot understand at all, but the Spirit of God understands. God is bringing you into places and among people and into conditions in order that the intercession of the Spirit in you may take a particular line. Never put your hand in front of the circumstances and say— “I am going to be my own providence here; I must watch this, and guard that.” All your circumstances are in the hand of God, therefore never think it strange concerning the circumstances you are in. Your part in intercessory prayer is not to enter into the agony of intercession, but to utilize the commonsense circumstances God puts you in, and the commonsense people He puts you amongst by His providence, to bring them before God’s throne and give the Spirit in you a chance to intercede for them. In this way God is going to sweep the whole world with His saints.

Am I making the Holy Spirit’s work difficult by being indefinite, or by trying to do His work for

Him? I must do the human side of intercession, and the human side is the circumstances I am in and the people I am in contact with. I have to keep my conscious life as a shrine of the Holy Ghost, then as I bring the different ones before God, the Holy Spirit makes intercession for them.

Your intercessions can never be mine, and my intercessions can never be yours, but the Holy Ghost makes intercession in our particular lives, without which intercession someone will be impoverished.

[Pray]

10:1-4

**When he had called them to Him -
He'd gone around and called the 12 out of the world**

DGC - Jesus chose His disciples from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. About all they had in common was it seems that none of them were privileged or from backgrounds of high status.

**Where were you when God called you?
When you left everything behind to follow Him?**

This Wednesday for me, November 13, 2003. 21 years ago. In my room at my mom's house in upstate NY.

If you didn't know already, He is calling you right now. He's been calling you your whole life.

Out of order a little bit...let's look at who He called to himself
Again love that, he didn't call them to do a job, he called them to himself, then sent them out.

1. **Simon Peter &**
2. Andrew (Peter's brother)
3. James son of Zebedee &
4. John son of Zebedee
5. **Philip &**
6. Bartholomew (Nathaniel) *"Many are of opinion that this was Nathanael... whose name was probably Nathanael bar Talmi, Nathanael, the son of Talmi: here, his own name is repressed, and he is called Bar Talmi, or Bartholomew, from his father."* (Clarke)

Side note - Barabbas, son of the father - Jesus, son of the Father

7. Thomas &
8. Matthew the Tax Collector (author of this gospel, potentially first gospel written)
9. **James** the son of Alphaeus
10. Lebbaeus Thaddaues (had a last name)
11. Simon the Cananite
12. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed them (obviously written after the fact)

Listed as Twelve Apostles in the heading, but disciples in the scripture

Apostle - sent out one (office of Apostle vs. gift of apostle)

Jesus too sent out from God

DGC - Jesus called apostle in Hebrews 3:1

In the lists:

DGC -Peter is always listed first and Judas is always last.

The two pairs of brothers (Peter and Andrew; James and John) are always listed first.

In the lists they are arranged in a way that suggests that they were arranged in three groups of four, each with a leader.

**12 ordinary men called for an extraordinary mission -
to reach the lost sheep of Israel**

Jesus did not call the high and mighty. Like when his birth was announced to shepherds.

Do not think you are too low, too ordinary, too plain to be called.

You are exactly who is called - because you'll hear.

God is doing an amazing thing in our time, calling many of note - and they're hearing.

He can't be hidden even in the world of fame and fortune.

Pray that they would remain in him.

Their names in scripture.

There's another book - the Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation)

Is your name written in it, by faith?

**Where did their power and authority come from? Jesus.
Biblical authority can't be learned or earned - only given**

- *Simon the Sorcerer wanting to learn, rebuked*
- *Laying on of hands for the baptism of the Holy Spirit*
- *Laying on of hands for the ministry*

(Context of priesthood, or official ministry)

Hebrews 5:4 NKJV - And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

And why does it need to come from God? Because it's not from us.

If God's going to do something, we can't make Him.

Psalm 127:1

**Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;
Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.**

We can only be a part of what he's doing - ask to send and be sent!

Disciples were given power (liberty to do as one pleases, authority, government/rule)

1. Power to cast out unclean spirits (interesting unclean...sinful)
2. Heal all kinds of sickness - sickness (I would say germ-caused)
3. Heal all kinds of disease - infirmity, debility, bodily weakness, sickness (I would say genetic/birth defects, injuries, things caused by sickness (blindness))

Their authority was intended to point back to Jesus.

Not look at us but look to him!

"Not to us, but to your name, be the glory!" Chris Tomlin "Not To Us", Psalm 115

:5-8

These twelve...not the crowds

Not to the gentiles (Romans, Arabs, etc.)

Not to the samaritans (Half Jewish)

This command was for this time being sent out. The Messiah came to rescue Israel and us.
Priority of preeminence.

As a Christian, of course I want the world to be saved, but as a Dad my priority is to reach my kids first

Isaiah 49:6 NKJV - Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also

give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

The Messiah would enlighten Israel, and if Israel had obeyed, they'd bring the light to the world.

But instead

Romans 9:25-28 NKJV - As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth."

But to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...

(...sheep without a shepherd)

**The people who had once known God,
had once been led by God...were now lost.**

What a tragedy!

*Riding in the current in the water, before you know it, you've drifted
If you can swim back, swim back now
If you're stuck, cry out for help*

As you go, preach! (Preaching vs. teaching)

Preach what? That the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!

God is here!

Preaching is the priority. Healing reveals the authority.

Does it always have to be healing physically? No.

But the Work of God will bear the marks of God.

Reconciliation. Peace. Justice. Healing. Forgiveness. Fellowship. Love.

The natural course of ministry:

God calls, God gives authority, God sends out, God gives the increase

How it might look in your life

- Be a sinner in need of a savior
- Hear Jesus' call to follow him
- Grow in grace and instruction, helping others do the work (apprenticeship)
- As you do the work, the call is ratified
- Be sent out - by God himself (call to MD, call to NY, call to MT)
- The ministry bears fruit - people hear, people believe, people follow (discipleship)

Freely received, freely given!

You didn't save yourself, you didn't earn the salvation, you didn't invent the gospel, you didn't provide the miracle - you are just a vessel of God doing what God does best!

So if you've received it, you're meant to share it!

2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV - knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

:9-15

Provide nothing in your money belts

"Where you're going, you won't need money"

Is this a command for all Christians at all times? No.

But there is a time and a place to learn to be totally dependent on God.

Being out of work during the recession. Meals. Money showing up.

The point is, money can't provide what God won't.

The work of God is not dependent on the amount of money in the bank.

It will succeed whether the coffers are full or empty.

If God wants to do something, do you think he needs Caesar's coins?

**** Mark 12:17 NKJV - And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.**

I think this was also to show the disciples how to trust God for **everything - especially in ministry**

The calvary way - if God is calling, go. Don't stick around. New church plants aren't usually sent out with money or people officially. Sometimes. But most of the time, people follow because they sense God calling them to go, too. People give because they see the vision.

“Where God guides, God provides.” Chuck Smith

“A worker is worthy of his food.”

If you're doing the work, God will provide for you!

- “Don't muzzle out the ox while it treads out the grain”
- Paul worked jobs, not because God wouldn't provide, but because he didn't want anyone to be burdened or to think he was in it for the money.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 NKJV - Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.

Again, it's not about the work itself,

it's about going to where God is working and being available to be a vessel for Him! It's about you drawing close to him, then continuing to draw close by going where he says to go and doing what he says to do!

It's about you getting closer to Him and others drawing closer to Him through you drawing closer to Him!

God “using” you (hate the saying)

Not even in lodging! Don't even book a hotel in advance!

(hospitality then different than AirBNB and hotels)

Stay with believers or those open to the gospel.

If they aren't open to it, it's OK to leave.

You don't have to hang around where you're not welcome.

This is big. This is very hard to hear and to do.

Sometimes we overstay our welcome, try too hard, want to win people or places -

but if they're not hearing it, it's out of our hands.

Remember S&G? Jesus does. He went there before he judged it. (Genesis 18)

Their land experienced temporal judgment (God judges the nations IN time)

But the people will fare better on the day of eternal judgment - because they actually would have repented if they heard the gospel.

Matthew 11:21, 24 NKJV - "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ... "But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

*** America and Europe have heard the gospel. Europe has rejected it and is fully post-Christian. America is close. We've staved it off potentially. We deserved Jezebel but we got Josiah. But even Josiah's kingdom still had judgment coming that couldn't be staved off.*

**Let's pray our land is ready to receive the gospel.
God has put us all here for that.**

Have you heard the call of God on your life?

If not a believer, it's to become a believer

2 Cor 6:2c Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Romans 2:4c ...the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

If you've drifted, backslidden, or are drowning

He's calling out to you - call out to Him, take His hand

If he's calling you to Himself, he's preparing to send you out

If he's sent you out, he's calling you to depend on Him for all your needs.

Will you answer His call? He wants you to be close to Himself.

As you do, your life will preach.

You will preach.

Others will be drawn close to Him too.