

119. Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Disciples (Matthew 10:1-15)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us Your word of salvation. Thank You for giving us Your command and authority to tell others about Your good news. Please help us to be faithful and do Your work. Please open people's hearts so they will believe in You and not reject You. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Matthew 10:1-4. Jesus called together His 12 disciples. He gave them authority to control evil spirits, to throw demons out of people, and to heal every kind of sickness. These are the names of the 12 apostles: Simon (also named Peter), his brother Andrew, James the son of Zebedee, his brother John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the man who betrayed Jesus.

- After Jesus called the 12 disciples together, what was the first thing Jesus did?
- If Jesus didn't give the disciples that authority, could the disciples get authority some other place? Why could Jesus give that authority?
- Why 12 disciples/apostles? Why not 10 or 15?
- First, these verses say "12 disciples," then "12 apostles." What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

Matthew 10:5-6. Jesus sent the 12 apostles out. But first, Jesus taught them several things. Jesus said, "Don't go to the non-Jews. Don't enter any city in Samaria. Only go to the lost people in Israel."

- Why do you think Jesus told the apostles to only go to Israel?

Matthew 10:7-10. "As you go, preach. Say, 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' You should heal sick people, raise dead people, make lepers clean, throw demons out of people. You received freely. You also should give freely. Don't save up gold, silver, or copper in your money belts. Don't take a bag for your journey. Don't take two sets of clothes, or sandals, or a walking stick. Why? The worker earns his wages."

- Name 5 things Jesus said the apostles should do.
- Jesus said they received something for free, and should give it away free. What?
- Jesus told the apostles not to take extra things with them on their trip, because the worker earns his wages. What is Jesus talking about?

Matthew 10:11-15. “When you enter a city or small town, find a good person who accepts you. Stay with that person until you leave the town. When you enter a house, greet (bless) the people. If the people are good and accept it, let your peace stay there. But if they are not worthy, let your blessing come back to you. If someone will not accept you and they ignore your words, leave that house or city and shake the dirt off your feet. I tell you the truth, on the day of judgment, that city will be in more trouble than Sodom and Gomorrah.”

- When the disciples entered a city, what did they do first?
- How would the disciples know if a person was a good person who accepted them? How would they know if a person was “worthy?”
- If a family or a city rejected the disciples, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do? Why?
- What does that tell us about witnessing to people? If we are telling people about Jesus, what should we do if someone rejects Him? What if someone just isn’t interested?
- The people in Sodom and Gomorrah were terrible sinners. Why will judgment day be worse for people who rejected the disciples (or reject our good news today?)