



## The Sending of the Twelve in Matthew Pt 3: A Prophetic Mission!

January 13, 2019

### Text: Matthew 10:5-15

- Last week as we studied Matthew 10:1-4, we saw that our LORD always leads by example. He not only lamented the size of the harvest and said that His disciples should pray unto the LORD of the harvest for laborers, He also went out himself and sent the disciples out!
- As we turn to the next verses, we see that Jesus gave the disciples very specific instructions. So specific that we are hesitant to use this for an apostolic model for all times.
- In fact, towards the end of his earthly mission, our LORD rescinded some of these instructions:

*Luke 22:35-38 (KJV) And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing. 36 Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. 37 For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end. 38 And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough.*

### So the question is “why?” Why would Jesus give such instructions to the disciples? Why was this specific mission to Israel so regulated?

1. Jesus limited their ministry because it was “pre-**Resurrection**.”
2. Jesus was testing their **faith**.
3. Jesus was establishing their apostolic **authority**.
4. I'd like to offer a fourth possibility: Jesus sent them out as in the manner of **prophets** to be able to unequivocally state that Israel, to whom Jesus was first sent, heard the Gospel.

- **Prophets had a specific mission to Israel**
- **Prophets relied upon God for provision**
- **Prophets sometimes brought blessings to a home**
- **Prophets often worked miracles (through the power of the LORD)**
- **Prophets functioned as witnesses for God and His truth.**

I believe the disciples may have been sent out in a prophetic manner to ensure all of Israel heard the Gospel and had an opportunity to **repent**. This is a pattern in the Old Testament; God “rising early” and sending His message of repentance and hope to those He loved.

Once again, prophets are sent to Israel. Jesus, THE Prophet, and the disciples carried a **prosecutorial** mandate, closing the argument of God so common in the Old Testament that Israel is a stiff-necked and rebellious people. The message of Jesus was dispersed broadly throughout the land, by the LORD AND

the Twelve. When judgment comes for Israel (and it did in 70 AD), they would not be able to say they didn't know. Indeed...

*"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" Matthew 23:37 (KJV)*

### **Closing Thoughts:**

I believe the Church is Christ's prophetic voice in the land. We are called the "pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15), "the light of the world" (Matt 5:14), and "the Holy City" (Rev 21:2). We are "stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Pet 4:10), "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." (Eph 2:20)

Our mandate isn't just to modern Israel, but the nations:

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)*

May the LORD help us lovingly but boldly carry out this sacred mission!  
Amen!

### **Applications:**

1. In our text, the disciples were sent on a very difficult and very specific mission. Although it may not be normative, pray and consider how you would respond to such a sending.
2. Sometimes the "restrictions" in our lives and ministries have prophetic purpose. How might this understanding bless you and your family when you are faced with a challenge?
3. Often, God will call us to go and trust Him for provision as we walk and obey. Are you daily building such trust through prayer and the exercising of your faith?
4. Are you willing to take on the prophetic mantle to present the LORD's truth to a lost, skeptical, and sometimes hostile world?

Next week, LORD willing: "A Prophetic Message"