

Title: Fishers of Men

Scripture Reading: Matthew 10:1-33

Introduction:

- I. **Matthew 9:36-38** - “³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”
 - A. The setting of Jesus sending out His disciples -
 1. **Matthew 5-7** - The transformative message of Jesus’ sermon on the mount. This sermon does not allow one to remain comfortably in his daily activities, but rather it is a call for a spiritual revolution. The individual finds in Jesus’ sermon a new purpose to life, and a higher calling.
 2. **Matthew 8** - Jesus marvels at the faith of a Roman Centurion.
 3. **Matthew 9** - Jesus ate with the sinners and publicans, because only the spiritually sick are in need of the great Physician.

Body:

- I. The twelve are chosen - **Matthew 10:1-4**
 - A. The answered prayer - “workers into His harvest”
 - B. The twelve are given authority/power – the twelve are specifically named
- II. The “limited commission” -
 - A. The sphere of the mission -
 1. **Matthew 10:5-6** - “...but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
 - a. Why did Jesus not send the disciples to the Samaritans? - **Matthew 15:24**
 - b. Were these young disciples prepared for the battle against the Gentiles and Samaritans? - **Luke 9:54; John 4:7-24**
 - B. The work of the disciples -
 1. **Matthew 10:7** - “⁷ “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”
 - a. The simplicity of the New Testament gospel - **Matthew 3:2; 4:17**
 - b. The gospel does not have to be made into an elaborate scheme/gimmick, but rather trust in the power of the Word to save souls.
 2. **Matthew 10:8** - The effect of the disciples’ work (cf. **Luke 9:7-9**)
 - a. Herod heard of the disciples work and was told “John the baptist” had risen from the dead.
 - b. The purpose of the disciple’s miracles – It was all about the exaltation of Jesus’ name!
 - C. The disciples were called to trust in God - **10:9-15**
 1. The promise of God toward His faithful - **Matthew 6:33**

2. The reception of the disciples - **Matthew 10:40-42**
- D. The result of their work - **Mark 6:30-32**
 1. The similar sending out of the seventy - **Luke 10:1-22**
 - a. **10:17-20** - "...Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
 - b. **10:21** - Still there are many who will deny and not believe. Why?
- III. Jesus prepares His disciples for their future work -
 - A. **10:16-18** - The disciples will appear before "governors and kings for My sake."
 1. **Acts 12:1-2** - Herod; **Acts 24** - Felix; **Acts 25** - Festus
 - B. **10:19-20** - Jesus' comfort to His disciples
 1. The disciples will be guided by the Holy Spirit -
 - a. Peter - **Acts 4:8**
 - b. Stephen - **Acts 6:8; 7:1-60**
 - C. **10:21-22; 34-39** - Familial relationships will become divided and changed because of the gospel
 - D. **10:23** - The promise of judgement
 - E. **10:24-25** - The very meaning of discipleship! We are to represent our Master/Teacher!
 - F. **10:26-31** - "DO NOT FEAR..."
 1. All things will be revealed to the disciples - **John 16:13**
 2. Fear God not man - **2 Timothy 4:4-6**
 3. The value of our soul - Can this help in the midst of tremendous trial?
 - G. **10:32-33** - We must find our comfort in our confession of the Lord (cf. **2 Timothy 1:12**)!

Conclusion:

- I. The great commission - **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - A. Were these twelve men successful in the proclamation of the gospel? - **Acts 2:47; 4:4; 5:14, 42; 6:7; 8:4**
 - B. The gospel transformed the known world - **Colossians 1:23; Acts 17:6**
- II. Where does all of this leave us? Can the same be accomplished today? -
 - A. **Mark 1:17** - "Let's go fishing!" - Are we willing to go? Are we willing to seek the lost? Are we willing to teach the gospel? Are we willing to live differently? Are we willing to shine our lights to the glory of God?

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