

## Matthew 10

Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

#### Matthew 10:27

PRAYER: Father, thank You for sending Your apostles to preach the good news. Please teach me the importance of sharing the same message.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 10, Jesus called 12 of His disciples to be apostles, instructing and sending them to preach to the lost sheep of Israel.

### Matthew 10 Outline:

The Twelve Apostles Are Sent - Read Matthew 10:1-4

The Twelve Apostles Are Instructed - Read Matthew 10:5-42

PREPARE: In Matthew 10, we see the disciples become "sent ones" or "apostles," as Jesus gave them instructions for their mission.



# The Twelve Apostles Are Sent - Read Matthew 10:1-4

1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

1. In Matthew 9:38, Jesus instructed His disciples to pray. In Matthew 10, we'll see that prayer answered. What was the prayer?

2. Jesus "called" His disciples to Himself (v. 1). Who does Romans 8:28-30 describe as "called"?

3. What did Jesus give His disciples (v. 1)? Why would they need what Jesus gave to them?



4. The names of the twelve "apostles" (instead of "disciples") are listed in verse 2. Although they are the same people, the word *apostle* is the Greek word *apostolos*, which means "sent out ones." Why are the apostles listed in pairs? (See Mark 6:7.)

# The Twelve Apostles Are Instructed - Read Matthew 10:5-42

Matthew 10:5-42 (NKJV)

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts,

10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.

12 And when you go into a household, greet it.

13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.



14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.

18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;

20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

21 "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

23 When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.



25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!

26 Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

27 "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.

30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';

36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.



38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

5. Jesus sent out His twelve apostles. Where did He send them (v.6)? Where did He not want them to go (v.5)? Why were they not to go to these places? (See also Isaiah 53:6, Jeremiah 50:6, and Matthew 15:24.)

6. Jesus lists the mission statements for His apostles (vv. 7-8). What are their two missions? How is their mission similar to Jesus' mission listed in Matthew 4:23? How is it different?



7. PRODUCE: In Matthew 10:8, Jesus said to His twelve apostles, "Freely you have received, freely give." What did they freely receive that they were to freely give?

8. Jesus instructs His apostles not to take money (v. 9) or extra supplies (v. 10). Why? (See also Leviticus 19:13, Deuteronomy 24:15, and Luke 10:7.)

9. Jesus instructed His apostles to find a place to stay when they entered a town by inquiring who was worthy (v.11). How would they know if a household was worthy? (See Luke 10:5.)

10. PROCEED: In Matthew 10:14, Jesus instructs His disciples on how to discern whether or not to remain in a city, preaching and healing. What two indicators determined whether or not the apostles remained in a city or town? Why is this so critical? Share your answer with the group. (See also Matthew 7:6 and 10:40.)



11. PRACTICE: In Matthew 10:14, Jesus instructed His apostles to "shake off the dust from your feet" if a town or city wouldn't receive them and their message. Shaking off the dust was a symbolic act practiced by the Pharisees when they left an "unclean" Gentile area. Here, Jesus uses this act as a warning to those who reject His apostles' message. How are we to shake off the dust today? (See Matthew 7:6 and Acts 13:51.)

12. PROPOUND: When Jesus refers to Sodom and Gomorrah, what do you think He is saying about a city that rejects His apostles (Matthew 10:15)?

13. PROPOUND: In Matthew 10:16, Jesus sent His apostles out as "sheep in the midst of wolves." What is the certain destiny of a sheep in the midst of wolves?

14. PROPOUND: In Matthew 10:18, why did Jesus say His apostles would be brought before governors and kings?

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15. PROCLAIM: Share with the group how we can be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves." (v.16) (See Romans 16:19, 2 Corinthians 12:16, Ephesians 5:15, and Colossians 4:5.)

16. Why were the apostles not to worry about how or what they should speak if they were brought before kings and governors (v.18)? (See also Exodus 4:12, 2 Samuel 23:2, Jeremiah 1:7, and 2 Timothy 4:17.)

17. Jesus warns His apostles they will cause division in people's families and be hated (vv. 21-22). Why is enduring this persecution (v. 23) important for "sent out ones" of Jesus Christ (v. 22)?

18. PROPOUND: What did Jesus say His apostles should do if they were persecuted in a particular city? (See Matthew 10:23.)

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19. Jesus again warns His apostles about mistreatment (v. 25) from those they will witness to. Read Luke 6:40. Why is Jesus sending His apostles to those He knows will mistreat them?

20. By whom was Jesus called "Beelzebub" (v. 25)? (See Matthew 9:34; 12:24, Mark 3:22, and Luke 11:15.)

21. Jesus instructs His apostles to be bold in their witness by preaching what they hear in the dark and in their ear in the light and from the housetops (v. 27). He gives them an eternal perspective (v. 28) on their preaching and mentions two seemingly unimportant items: sparrows and the number of hairs on their heads. Why does Jesus want them to be aware of His Father's intimate knowledge of their lives (vv. 28-31)?

22. PROPOUND: Do you think Jesus is speaking figuratively or literally about the hairs on your head being numbered (v.30)? (See 1 Samuel 14:45, 2 Samuel 14:11, 1 Kings 1:52, Luke 21:18, and Acts 27:34.)



23. PROMOTE: Read Matthew 10:32-33. Why is it important to boldly tell others (confess) about Jesus?

24. It was foretold that the Messiah would bring peace (see Isaiah 9:6-7 and Micah 4:3-4). But in Matthew 10:34-36, Jesus said He didn't come to bring peace, but a sword. How do you reconcile Jesus' statement with these prophecies of the Messiah?

25. What is the cost of being a disciple and apostle of Jesus Christ (vv. 37-39)? (See also Luke 14:25-33.)

26. PROPOUND: In Matthew 10:40, Jesus lists what a person will receive if they receive the apostle and his message. How can you be absolutely certain that you've received this promise? (See Romans 8:9; 16, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, and 1 John 3:24; 4:13.)



27. PROTECT: Carefully read Matthew 10:40. What does the person receive who receives the apostle and his message?

28. Jesus promises rewards for those who are willing to receive a righteous person who proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ (v.41). How can you discern if the prophet is from God? (See 1 John 4:1-3.)

To learn about two people who received prophets of God and received a prophet's reward, read 1 Kings 17:10-16 and 2 Kings 4:4-37.

29. Jesus states that a person giving to His servants (v. 42) "shall by no means lose his reward." In Matthew 10:42, how easy did Jesus make it to earn a reward? (See also Mark 9:41 and Hebrews 6:10.)

PROCESS: Take some time to review what you've learned in Matthew 10. Highlight what the Lord showed you so you can share it with the group.

PRAY: Father, thank You for sending Your apostles. Help me to respond to Your calling, that I, too, may be sent to preach Your message to this world.

Journal your prayer here: