



Empowering People to Change the World

## **The Jesus Disciple Empowered**

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### **Matthew 10**

Jesus is showing us Kingdom ministry. The Holy Spirit continues His ministry in us and in our world today. Jesus is modeling what happens when the Kingdom of God comes.

I want to do what Jesus does; I want to pray as Jesus prayed; I want to feel as Jesus felt. How about you?

**In our chapter, Jesus is explaining two things about His Kingdom Movement:**

- 1. The character of the mission.**
- 2. The character of the disciple who will carry out the mission—this is really what we must focus on! This is where churches and mission groups fail—too much focus on the organization and not enough on the organism, the people, and the leadership.**

**Don't miss this: God does not anoint strategies or mission movements; He anoints men and women who carry out the mission.**

#### **Matthew 9:37-38**

***<sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. <sup>38</sup> Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."***

- In REAL TIME, there is a HARVEST according to Jesus! In the Rocky Mountain Front Range and beyond; in our city, in your job, in your neighborhood, in your family, and in our church!
- Jesus says the harvest is "plentiful" and in the Greek, plentiful means "plentiful."
- But laborers are needed. The harvest is not brought in by itself. Pray for laborers! Guess what? You start praying and you will start living and giving like there is a harvest!

- Two things that empower you to become a Harvester:
  - 1) Growing
  - 2) Giving
 You miss either one and you start to die!

### **Matthew 10:1**

***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.***

- In Luke 6:12, Jesus prays all night before He makes this decision.
- At The Road we prayed 40 nights before we started this church.
- Definition of a Disciple: *mathetes*, “to learn, one who follows.” A disciple is a constant learner.
  - A “laborer” is a disciple. A disciple is a constant learner.
  - Growing and Giving
  - FAT: Faithful, Available, Teachable
- Jesus gives them Power-*exousia*, “authority,” all the authority of Jesus. In Acts 1:8, we have *dunamis*, we have power to “be witnesses” not just “go witnessing,” and they have “all the authority.” The Royal Right to heal the sick...with unlimited power. The same as Jesus had.
- We have “dunamis” and God does miracles today! But we can’t exercise any gift we want but rather God grants signs and wonders. However, these guys are given complete authority in an unlimited way! *Exousia*.

### **Matthew 10:2-4**

***<sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the***

***tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;<sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.***

- This is who Jesus picks:
  - Peter, who constantly brushes his teeth with shoe polish.
  - Simon, who is a terrorist.
  - Matthew, the tax collector, and he's kind of proud of it.
  - Phillip the skeptic.
  - All common men. Could you pick these men?
  - Judas, even he is given power.
  
- Apostles—"sent forth ones."
  
- These are the capital "A" Apostles. Unique in that they were the eye witness of Jesus ministry, did miracles, personally chosen by Jesus, and with governmental power to set up the church. They have the authority and write scripture. They are different. No one has had it since.
  - Luther and Calvin, in a sense, were small "a" apostles, justification by faith.
  - Whitfield's preaching from 1745-1770, affected 93% of those at Harvard which got saved under him. They wrote the constitution later that changed our nation.
  
- They are not chosen for their credentials. I love these guys because they are like us! James and John, "sons of thunder," angry feisty men who got changed.
  
- Jesus had been modeling the ministry—preaching the Kingdom and ministering in power—proclamation and demonstration—word and deed.
  
- Now He is mobilizing the movement.

## **Matthew 10:5-10**

**<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

**<sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’**

**<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. <sup>9</sup> Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, <sup>10</sup> nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.**

## **6 Characteristics of the Mission**

1. Focus on Israel. Don't go to the gentiles. That will come later.
2. Preach that the King and Kingdom has come. It is not the Gospel yet because Jesus has not died yet. They don't even know that.
3. Heal the sick.
4. Cleanse lepers.
5. Raising the dead would be really cool! I want to do that someday!
6. Do not use these gifts for personal gain! Give it out free.
  - If they are hospitable toward you, “beatitudes households,” if they are poor in spirit, if they are hungry for the kingdom, the things of God, then stay with them and share of the Kingdom.

## **Strategy of the Mission**

### **Matthew 10:11-15**

**<sup>11</sup> “Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. <sup>12</sup> And when you go into a household, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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!***

1. Go to cities and towns. In other words, get a clear location and develop a strategy for it.
  2. Focus on families/households, “oikos evangelism.”
  3. Look for “worthy” people. Don’t mess around with people who are not interested.
- Common practice of that day, “shake the dust off your feet” term, when Jews left a gentile area they would shake the dust off their shoes, same when coming into Jerusalem. Jewish term at the time.
  - Sodom and Gomorrah had less witness than these cities. They are rejecting more light than they had.
  - Jesus now prophecies what will happen to the Apostles in the first century, which is prophetic of our world today.

**God’s anointing is on the Organism, the disciple!**

**9 Convictions of an Empowered Disciple**

**Matthew 10:16**

***<sup>16</sup> “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.***

**1. You will need Wisdom.**

- Take note. This is not militancy. We are to come peacefully. Spiritual power here, not military sheep. Sheep are not militant.
- How many of you have killed a serpent? They are wise and crafty.

**Matthew 10:17-18**

***<sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.***

- Beware of people. Watch your back. Not becoming paranoid, but perceptive.
- Paul before Agrippa and Felix, he always shares his testimony!
- All of the apostles will experience this.

## 2. The Holy Spirit will tell you what to say, so don't worry.

### Matthew 10:19-20

***<sup>19</sup> 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; <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.***

- Prophetic of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit, which they do not have yet, will guide them.
- Stephen filled with the Spirit knew what to say. Moses to Jesus, whose face shown like an angel, and the people could not withstand His wisdom.
- The Holy Spirit anoints you! He brings the verses up—but you can't remember what you never learned. ***“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10***
- I've brought you there because you're the mouth I need. You're not in trouble, they are in trouble!

### Matthew 10:21-22

***<sup>21</sup> “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. <sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.***

## 3. Be prepared for persecution even in your own family.

- Paul says that in the last days they will be “lovers of themselves.” We are headed into those days.
- We get shunned by our family for following Jesus. For you who have a Jewish background, they have a funeral for you; it’s really painful. This is your family now! The church. You will be rejected.
- This is why you must be in a church! If you’re not committed to a local church, you’re headed for trouble. Even Paul had Antioch.

### **Matthew 10:23**

***<sup>23</sup> 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.***

### **4. Flee and Leave the Uninterested**

- Don’t wrestle people into the kingdom. Your job may only be a seed for the Kingdom and someone else will harvest them.
- Don’t keep fussing with people who don’t want to hear. Don’t argue with those kind of people. Move on.
- The work is not done until He comes back! His feet on the Mount of Olives.

### **Matthew 10:24-25**

***<sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> 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!”***

### **5. Be a Servant**

- A disciple means we are a “learner or slave” of a master. Ministry means you are a servant. The ministry must be in you. You don’t “go into the ministry” rather “the ministry is in you!” Learner, servant is what the ministry is.



- If they call Jesus the opposite of who He really is, they will do the same to you! “Lord of the flies.”

### **Matthew 10:26**

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

### **6. Have no Fear**

- We get fearful of confessing Jesus before men. We are His mouth, we are His heart! Don't fear men! Are you sharing your faith with men? You need to be filled and empowered with the Holy Spirit. You would “be a witness” of His supernatural filling. A refill is needed.
- Call it filled, baptized or empowered; I don't care. But the word is *dunamis* and it means “be a witness.”

### **Matthew 10:27**

***<sup>27</sup> “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.***

### **7. Boldly Speak out!**

- Do not be full of fear, be full of the Spirit!
- Every knee is going to have to confess! Everyone who mocks Christianity will have to confess that Jesus is Lord.

### **Matthew 10:28**

***<sup>28</sup> 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.***

- Live in reverence of God not men. Fear of man brings a snare. Paul said, I don't judge myself from men, I don't even judge myself. Hey, it will all be over soon. They can only kill the hardware, but fear Him who can kill hardware and software.

### **Matthew 10:29-31**

***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.***

- God knows everything that's happening in your life! He knows it all.
- The poor bought sparrows to eat. The average head has about 140,000 hairs. Each hair is not counted but numbered. He knows each hair. He knows everything about you. He values you!

### **Matthew 10:32-33**

***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.***

- Do you stand up for Him? Do you confess Him? If you do, He will. If you don't, He won't. Peter did this, but he repented. When you confess your faith in Christ, He confesses you.

### **Matthew 10:34-36**

***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.'***

- You get saved and it causes trouble! You're not a drunk anymore, you're not going to Cripple Creek anymore, you're not immoral anymore and then they think something is wrong! Isn't that amazing?
- It's the great divide! God doesn't look at our race, our color, our bank account, our talents, our background. We are all the same. No, He looks at saved or unsaved..

### **Matthew 10:37**

***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.***

- The word here is “phileo.” We are to love our family “agape” but not more than we love Christ, “phileo”.
- But if our fondness for our family is greater than our love for Christ, we will become a disciple of our family and not Christ’s.

### **Matthew 10:38-39**

***<sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.***

### **8. Denial of Self**

- There is a cost to being an empowered Jesus disciple. It’s not self-sacrifice but sacrifice of self. Not self-denial, but denial of self. You can have self-denial for martial arts or Jenny Craig, but He’s talking about denial of self.
- We romanticize the cross. Hey where’s your cross on the wall? But it’s more like the gas chamber or electric chair.
- How about singing “the old rugged electric chair” or “there is room in the gas chamber for you” or “the lethal injection before me, the world behind me”?
- Ridiculous. I want you to go to the electric chair for me. I want you to go to the gas chamber for me. Denial of self! Sacrifice of self. Lose your life! Lose your soul-ish life.
- I hear people say “I’m losing it” and I want to say, “yes, lose it then,” good, let go. Quit trying to hold on to it, just let it go. Our struggle is never “I’ve given too much for Jesus.” The struggle is that we don’t want to put self to death.
- Put the old life to death! Seek new life, lose the soul-ish life.

### **Matthew 10:40-42**

***<sup>40</sup> “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> 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. <sup>42</sup> 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."***

## **9. Be Spirit Spilled!**

- Spill out to help others. Serve, give, love. Some of you know Jesus but you've never learned to give to others, to serve others, to love others.
- It's better to give than to receive. You're here and you receive every week, but Jesus is saying, I want to take you to a new level of giving.
- A disciple is a learner, a grower, a servant, a giver!
- You will be rewarded!!