

## Jesus Selects Twelve Disciples; He Sends Them Out For Ministry

### Matthew 10

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
The Twelve Disciples; Instructions for Service	10	1	Jesus gives authority to the twelve to heal and cast out demons
		2-4	The Twelve
		5-15	Jesus sends out the twelve to preach the kingdom of heaven is at hand and “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.”
A Hard Road before Them		16-20	Jesus tells the disciples to preach what the Spirit gives you to preach without fear
		21-22	Conflict will come from familiar places
		23	Move to another city when persecution comes
The Meaning of Discipleship		24-25	The disciple should strive to be like the Master
		26-31	Trust in God and do not fear
		32-33	Confess or Deny Jesus—That is the choice
		34-36	Jesus will cause controversy
		37-39	Jesus has to come first
The Reward of Service		40-42	Disciples will be rewarded for their service

### Reflections

Jesus had been teaching what the kingdom of heaven was like up to this point and now He selected twelve men to be His disciples. These same twelve are given authority over unclean spirits and to heal sicknesses and diseases. He then sends out to 1) preach the “kingdom of heaven is at hand” and 2) perform ministry: “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.”

The twelve are listed in pairs.

- Simon Peter and Andrew (brothers)
- James and John, the sons of Zebedee (brothers)
- Philip and Bartholomew
- Thomas and Matthew
- James the son of Alphaeus and Thaddeus
- Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot

I’m sure Jesus had his reasons for pairing the disciples together as He did and we can only guess at what they might be. So I’ll let you draw your own conclusions in the matter. Although there are some interesting pairings beside the obvious ones of the pairs of brothers.

It is interesting to note the order that they are to perform their ministry: first, preach: second, minister to needs. The message is everything! The healing, casting out demons, and raising the dead were only to be confirming signs of the message. They were never suppose to be the focus. Remember what Jesus said in Mark after He had spent an evening in prayer in a secluded and many people were

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

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looking for Him to heal them.

**Mark 1:35-39 NASB** In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left *the house*, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. **36** Simon and his companions searched for Him; **37** they found Him, and \*said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." **38** He \*said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for." **39** And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.

Jesus' focus was on the preaching of the word first and foremost. Even in John 5, He calls upon the miracles that He did as witness that His message was from God.

**John 5:36 NASB** "But the testimony which I have is greater than *the testimony of John*; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish--the very works that I do-- testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

So if this is true of Jesus with regard to miracles and the preaching of the word, and He gives the same priority instructions to the twelve disciples that He sends out to minister. Shouldn't we have the same priority today with regard to ministry as He and His disciples did from the beginning? I think the obvious answer is yes.

Jesus gives them some practical ministry instructions initially. What the message should be, who they were to minister to, and how they were to conduct themselves. Something that every pastor or minister should pay attention to.

Then for the rest of the chapter, Jesus gives some more specific instructions with regard to the difficulties they will face and how to deal with them. Especially in regard to having confidence in God to watch over and care for them.

Finally, Jesus closes His instructions with a brief discussion on the rewards of service in Jesus' name. The blessings in serving Jesus are not necessarily material. There will be some of that, but the rewards are more of a spiritual nature.

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**Key Words:** New Testament, Gospels, Matthew, Jesus, Apostles, Preaching, Ministry, Discipleship

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### ***Bibliography***

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(NASB) *New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.