

TO BE A DISCIPLE

Unit 1701: *Persecution in the Mission Field*

Matthew 10:5-42

CONTINUITY FROM LAST SESSION (December 1, 2024)

1. Jesus is the NEW ISRAEL with 12 Disciples instead of 12 Tribes.
2. Jesus SENT OUT (a-po-stell-ow) on a MISSION (apostolic).
3. Go only to *the lost sheep of the house of Israel* (no Gentiles).
4. The Message of the Mission: *The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.*
5. The naming of the 12 Disciples.

I. JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE APOSTLES (Matthew 10:5-15)

MATTHEW 10:5-15 [5](#) *These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, [6](#) but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. [7](#) And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' [8](#) Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. [9](#) Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, [10](#) no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. [11](#) And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. [12](#) As you enter the house, greet it. [13](#) And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. [14](#) And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. [15](#) Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.*

1. *Who is worthy* = a person who hears and receives the Gospel of the Kingdom.
2. Jewish traditional greeting: SHALOM [שלום] - generally "comprehensive peace"
4. *Shake off the dust from your feet ...* gesture of severance
5. Sodomy and Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-11 / Genesis 19:23-29)

II. THE APOSTLES WILL FACE PERSECUTION (Matthew 10:16-24)

MATTHEW 10:16-25 [16](#) *"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. [17](#) Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, [18](#) and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. [19](#) When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. [20](#) For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. [21](#) Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, [22](#) and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. [23](#) When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns 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 the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.*

1. Mission will be difficult and dangerous - no weapon but the WORD.
2. **MATTHEW 7:15** *15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*
3. Wise as serpents ... but innocent as doves (Acts 9:23-25)
4. Beelzebul is the *Prince of Demons [Lord of the Flies]*, whom Jesus identified as Satan.
5. Matthew 12:24 / Mark 3:22-23 / Luke 11:15-19

III. BUT DISCIPLES HAVE NO FEAR WHEN SENT INTO MISSION (Matthew 10:23-26)

MATTHEW 10:26-33 [26](#) "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. [27](#) What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. [28](#) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. [29](#) Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. [30](#) But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. [31](#) Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. [32](#) So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, [33](#) but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

A. (26) *so have no fear of them ...*

1. Phrase is used THREE TIMES in this section (Persecution-26, Judgment-28 / Whether or not God cares-31).
2. No fear promotes MAXIMUM ATTENTION (Matthew 5:1)
3. The "coming out" of the disciples [What about us?]

C. (29-31) - *falling sparrows and hairs on your head*

1. This fear deals with *whether or not God cares about what happens*
2. That's how intimately concerned your Father is for you and your mission.

IV. JESUS BRINGS A SWORD (SEPARATION) - NOT PEACE (Matthew 10:34-39)

MATTHEW 10:34-39 [34](#) "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. [35](#) For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. [36](#) And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. [37](#) Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38](#) And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. [39](#) Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. This does NOT mean that Jesus came in order to disrupt human life.
2. But Christ has come to separate humans from unbelief and evil.
3. The call to the Kingdom of God takes precedence over all things.

V. CHRIST GIVES RIGHTEOUS REWARDS TO FAITHFUL DISCIPLES (Matthew 10:40-42)

MATTHEW 10:40-42 [40](#) "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. [41](#) The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. [42](#) And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

1. Christ identifies the disciples with Himself
2. Then identifies Himself with the Father.
3. Four applications to "Servant": Christ, Prophet, Righteous Man, Disciple.