"THE DISCIPLES' COMMISSION"

Matthew 10:1-17
10/15/2017

INTRODUCTION: Verses 1 - 4

***Observe the marching orders of your Commander-in-Chief!**

As you serve Christ, what principles should you keep in mind for effective ministry?

I. Don't Neglect the Jewish People (v. 5-6)

II. Freely Give What God Gave You (v. 7-8)

III. Trust God to Provide Your Needs (v. 9-10)

IV. Don't Allow Rejection to Discourage You (v. 11-15)

V. Use Discretion When Ministering to People (v. 16)

VI. Expect Opposition (v. 17)

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V. 1
"Disciples" - a disciplined one. One who is trained in the disciplines of Godliness; one who is a student of the Master, Jesus Christ.

"<u>He</u> gave them power" - Jesus, being God, had the ability and authority to give the disciples authority to exorcise demons and conquer sickness and disease.

No one else who ever lived had such authority as Jesus does.

What a unique group of men Jesus worked with and used for His service! --

1) **Impulsive Peter** (overly confident in his own ability - Lk. 22:31-34; Jn. 18:10-11)
2) **Obedient Andrew**
3) **Ordinary James**
4) **Tender-hearted, loyal John**
5) **Inquisitive Philip** (a "show me" attitude - Jn. 14:6-8) (Ex. Missouri – the "Show Me" state)
6) **Unknown Bartholomew** (not much is revealed about him in Scripture)
7) **Doubting Thomas** (Jn. 20:25)
8) **Despised Matthew** (tax Collectors were despised people)
9) **Little James** (called "James the Less" [Mk. 15:40] either referring to his small stature or his young age
10) **Privileged Lebbaeus,** who had the nickname Thaddaeus and Judas (Acts 1:13; Jn. 14:22); who was the brother of James and evidently the half-brother of Jesus, the son of Mary & Joseph (Mt. 13:55)
11) **Zealous Simon** (He is called Simon Zelotes [Lk. 6:15; Acts 1:13] since he belonged to the radical and violent sect known as the Zealots. The Zealots had a critical spirit towards anyone who differed even a little bit from their line of thinking, and Simon [called Nathanael] also demonstrated a cynical attitude when he said, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" [Jn. 1:46])
12) **Hypocritical Judas Iscariot** (who pretended faith in Christ but ended up revealing his true colors when he betrayed the Lord

This motley crew of fisherman, tax collector, many times arrogant, self-centered disciples were commissioned by Jesus. If Jesus could use them, He can use you to be a fisher of men, too (Mt. 4:19).

Today we are in a battle! ILLUS: Song *"Onward Christian Soldiers"*

This chapter involves the reception of orders from the Commander-in-Chief Jesus Christ.

What were His marching orders to His disciples?

***Observe the marching orders of your Commander-in-Chief!**

As you serve Christ, what principles should you keep in mind for effective ministry?

I. Don't Neglect the Jewish People (v. 5-6)

"These twelve" - Jesus commissions only the twelve here (cp. Lk. 9:1) and sends them out 2 by 2 (Mk. 6:7). But later commissioned 70 other men and sent them out 2 by 2 (Lk. 10:1ff)

The restrictive command not to go on the road leading to the Gentile nations nor to enter into any Samaritan city seems uncharacteristic with Christ's love for the world but it is not.

This temporary injunction to go to the *"Jew first"* with the Gospel is justifiable for several reasons:

1) The *"Kingdom"* (v. 7) was originally promised to them in the O.T. (this Kingdom has not come yet - Acts 1:6-7)

2) They were a specially chosen nation through which came the Word of God (Rom. 3:2), and through whom as concerning the flesh, the Messiah Jesus Christ came (Rom. 1:3; 9:5)

SEE: Rom. 9:1-5

Note Paul's burden for the Jewish people -
a sincere burden (v. 1)
a great burden (v. 2a)
a continual burden (v. 2b)
a compassionate burden (v. 3-5)

Peter acknowledged that the Gospel was to go to the Jew first (see: Acts 3:24-26).

Paul had a conviction to deliver the Gospel to the Jew first (Rom. 1:16 - *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

3) Since the Israelites had the Gospel sent to them first,

--they would have no excuse for not believing it (their condemnation was heightened by the miracles they saw and by the fact that they clearly heard. Rom. 2:9 - *"Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and laos of the Gentile"*)

--God's reception of the Gentiles would not be shown to be favoritism

4) The Father sent Christ to the lost sheep of Israel to fulfill Scripture (Ezek. 34:10-16)

5) It's only wise (since they knew the culture and language) and right to go to your own relatives first with the Gospel (the 12 disciples were Jewish)

Jewish evangelism is greatly lacking in America because we have believed the lies of Satan that they will not listen, or that they are okay with their own religion, etc. (SEE: *"The Memorandum from the Prince of Darkness"*)

II. Freely Give What God Gave You (v. 7-8)

"Preach" - to proclaim; to cry out; to publically herald out God's Word (preaching is not supposed to be an activity of the past but obsolete in the present - II Tim. 4:2ff)

"The kingdom of Heaven is at hand" - the kingdom would have come if God's offer was accepted by Israel, but since it was rejected it has been put on hold.

These miracles by the disciples were to <u>authenticate</u> the message from the disciples. These wondrous signs would give credibility to the offer that the kingdom of God was at hand.

"Freely ye have received, freely give" -

--God's offer of the kingdom was free of charge (has no "admission fee")

--The miraculous power was God's power, not the disciples' power, so they were not to put price tags on healings, resurrections, and exorcisms

(The indulgences sold by the RCC are totally blasphemous!)

Don't let money be your motive!

Although he should be provided for (I Cor. 9:11; Gal. 6:6), no preacher should minister for filthy lucre (I Tim. 3:3; I Pet. 5:2).

We don't peddle the Gospel. No one should pray for pay or minister for money.

What talents (gifts) or resources (material blessings) has God given you? Are you somehow giving them to help the cause of Jesus Christ?

III. Trust God to Provide Your Needs (v. 9-10)

"Provide" - do not get and bring along money for the journey. Don't worry about cramming your money belt full of coins, so as to be financially independent.

"Scrip" - lit. "bag" - perhaps a food bag for carrying sack lunches.

Jesus is saying don't carry more than one tunic, nor an extra pair of sandals, nor an additional staff in case yours breaks.

The point is this: God will take care of everyone who lives for Him and puts Him first (SEE: Matt. 6:31-34).

Why not stock up and pack up? Because when you work for God, He will provide for his workers one day at a time (*"The workman is worthy of his meat"*; SEE: I Cor. 9:7-14; I Tim. 5:17-18)

IV. Don't Allow Rejection to Discourage You (v. 11-15)

V. 11

Not everyone is worthy (deserves the privilege) to show proper hospitality to God's servants.

"There abide" - those willing and able to open their home were to do so until the disciples' mission was finished. Then they would move on.

The importance of hospitality:

> *"Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality"* (Rom. 12:13)
>
> *"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in"* (Mt. 25:35)
>
> *"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach."* (I Tim. 3:2)
>
> *"The stranger did not lodge in the street: but I opened my doors to the traveller."* (Job. 31:32)

V. 12

"Salute it" - give it your greeting.

Politeness in someone else's home is always proper.

Somehow the presence of Christ's disciples would bring a peace to the home.

There is a sanctifying effect produced by a Godly believer's presence in a home (I Cor. 7:14; cp. Joseph - Gen. 39:5)

V. 14

The ***"shaking off of the dust"*** is a way of saying, "If you want nothing of my Gospel, I want nothing of your city! I take no responsibility for your rejection of the truth I gave you."

Don't let those who reject your Christianity discourage you; just shake the dust off and move on! (Acts 13:50-51 - *"But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium."*)

Don't let their unjust criticism "stick to your ribs"! Don't carry the baggage of discouragement and hurt feelings.

V. 15

Sodom and Gomorrha did not have the signs and wonders performed by Christ or his disciples. *"To whom much is given, much is required"*

V. Use Discretion When Ministering to People (v. 16)

Sheep and wolves do not get along too well! And its not the sheep's fault!

As you serve Christ, realize that there are wolves who will seek to destroy you and your work.

Because the wolves of the world (the cynical, irreligious, anti-God, pro amoral, humanistic, perverted fools of this world's system), you must be careful <u>what</u> you say (wise) and <u>how</u> you say it (harmless) (Also, I might add - <u>when</u> you say it - Prov. 225:11).

To preach the Gospel without compromise "does not require and should never include, being abrasive, course, inconsiderate, belligerent, blatant, or blunt" (MacArthur, p. 201)

Only a close walk with God can give you wisdom in your selection or words and harmlessness in the tone, inflection, etc. of your voice.

People were always looking to trip Jesus up in His word, but never could!

Be careful how you deal with people.

Follow Paul's prescription for problem people: *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."* (I Thes. 5:14)

VI. Expect Opposition (v. 17)

"Beware" - be on your guard against

"Councils" - local courts

"Scourge" - to flog with a bastinado (a stick or club), a painful punishment (Ryrie) (cp. the beatings God's people took - Acts 5:40; 22:19; 26:11)

"In their synagogues" - most often the sharpest opposition will come not from those without religion, but from those blinded by it.

They actually think they are doing God service!

Persecution by men should not come as a shock! The Lord said it would come! (I Pet. 4:12-19). God never promised that we would be exempt from the wrath of man (Antichrist) but His own wrath.

CONCLUSION: