



Commissioning Of The Twelve

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“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The 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 publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. 11 And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into an house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city” (Matthew 10:1-15).

prayers. Their prayers did not become a perpetual exercise that ignored the realities and needs of the time; neither did it become a lame excuse for inactivity and avoidance of responsibilities.

1) In the preceding verses, Jesus had commissioned the disciples to pray for God to send labourers into his harvest field. Immediately after their prayers (or while still praying?) He proceeded to send them forth into the harvest field. They became the very answers to their

- 2) There comes a time that the ‘prayer’ must believe in the answer that God has promised, and rise up to face the challenges, demands and responsibilities of the time.
- 3) The names of the 12 indicates that Judas was among them. What a challenge for faithfulness and endurance to the end!
- 4) The terms of the commission (vs 5-15) reflects the need to focus on their immediate geographical scope and rely on God, as their employer to supply all of their essential needs while on divine service.
- 5) Their mission was not just to demonstrate by their example, although that is crucially important, but they were to open their mouths and preach (vs 7). Preaching is still essential for informed decision for Christ.
- 6) Jesus’ emphasis on “freely ye have received, freely give” (vs 8) indicates that even though “the workman is worthy of his meat” (vs 10), yet the gifts of God are not to be commercialised.
- 7) Receiving and supporting God’s servants in their service brings the peace of God (vs 13).
- 8) The disciples were not to waste their time in a house or city that would not receive them, but were to wisely move on to more receptive areas (vs 14).
- 9) There are great and eternal consequences for individuals, homes and towns that reject the gospel / God’s ministers. Remember the rich man’s plea in hell (Luke 16:27-31).