



Go for God!

“Christ Power & Preaching!”

MATTHEW Chapter 10:1-15

- Let's review, Chapter 9 concludes with - *But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* (Matthew 9:36-38)

- Whereas, Chapter 10 begins with Jesus calling and empowering the twelve apostles to reach *the lost sheep of the house of Israel* saying, ***“the kingdom of heaven is at hand”*** (Mt. 10:7). Mark's gospel says that Jesus sent them out two by two. It's important for Christians to pair up for fellowship, for prayer, for study, and for evangelism!

(v1-4) Christians Need Christ POWER!

(v1) **Power** – In Greek *exousia* - in the sense of ability; privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery, delegated influence.

(v2-4) **What is an apostle and who are they?** The word ***“apostle”*** (Gk. *apostolos*) means ***a messenger, one sent forth with orders***. It is used concerning our Lord Himself (**Hebrews 3:1-2 - Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him**). It is used of the twelve, who were called to that office by our Lord during His earthly ministry; of Paul, called to the apostleship by the risen and ascended Lord; of Barnabas (Acts 14:14), specially designated by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2); and of Matthias, chosen by lot to take the place of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:15-26). Although Matthias is never actually referred to as an apostle, it is said of him: *“And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”*

- Five “signs of an apostle” are:

(1) they were chosen directly by the Lord Himself or, as in the case of Barnabas, by the Holy Spirit (Mt. 10:1-2); Mk. 3:13-1; Lk. 6:13; Acts 9:6,15; 13:2; 22:10,14-15; Ro. 1:1).

(2) They were endued with sign-gifts, miraculous powers which were the divine credentials of their office (Mt. 10:1; Acts 5:15-16; 16:16-18; 28:8-9).

(3) Their relation to the kingdom was that of heralds, announcing, to Israel (Mt. 10:5-6), the kingdom is at hand and manifesting kingdom powers (Mt. 10:7-8).

(4) The apostles' future relation to the kingdom will be that of judges over the twelve tribes (Mt. 19:28).

(5) It was on the foundation of the apostles and prophets that the Christian church was built, with Jesus Christ Himself as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). The authority committed to the apostles by Christ was unique. It could not be transmitted to others. The apostles could install elders or other leaders and teachers in the churches, and they could authorize them to assume special responsibilities; but **apostolic authority could not be transferred. Their authority has not come to us through their successors; it has come through their writings, which are contained in the New Testament.**

> Who are these guys (the apostles)?

- **Peter** – A fisherman changed to a fisher of men! Impulsive (Mt 14:28), yet cowardly (Mt 14:30; 26:69-74); hot tempered (Jn 18:10), yet tenderhearted (Mt 26:75); insightful (Mt 16:16), yet dense (Mt 16:21-23); courageous and solid after Pentecost (Acts 5:27-30). Tradition reports that Peter was forced to witness the crucifixion of his wife. In his *Ecclesiastical History*, the early church Father Eusebius writes that Peter stood at the foot of his wife's cross and kept repeating to her, "**Remember the Lord. Remember the Lord.**" After she died, it is said he pleaded to be crucified upside down, because he was unworthy to die as his Lord had died. Peter's life can be summed up in the last words of his second epistle, "**Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory, both now and forever. Amen.**" (2 Peter 3:18) Peter was married and never referred to himself as Pope or Pontifex Maximus (1 Peter 5:1).

- **Andrew** – His name means "manly." Brother of Peter, a fisherman, later fisher of men (Mt. 4:19). Enthusiastic about Christ (Jn 1:35-42); inquisitive (Jn 1:35-37); resourceful (Jn 6:8-9). Some suggest that Andrew preached in Greece, Asia Minor, and Russia. He was believed to be crucified for his faith on an "X" shaped cross. He is said to have hung on the cross in agony for two days, preaching the gospel to those who passed by.

- **James** – The son of Zebedee, brother of John the beloved, they were known as "the sons of thunder." James was one of the pillars of the Jerusalem church (Gal. 2:9). He was vengeful and fiery (Lk 9:54; selfish and conceited (Mk 10:35-37); committed to Christ and courageous to the end (Acts 12:2). According to tradition, James was about to be beheaded when his Roman guard turned to him ask for forgiveness; James embraced him, kissed him, and said, "Peace, my son. Peace to you and pardon of your faults." The soldier is said to have been so moved by James's compassion that he publicly confessed Christ and was beheaded alongside the apostle.

- **John** – The beloved, the evangelist, the revealer. His testimony was that God's love, evident in Jesus Christ, saves, transforms, and unites all believers. John was vengeful and fiery (Lk. 9:54); judgmental (Mk 9:38); selfish (Mk 10:35-37); bold, loving, and compassionate after Pentecost (Acts 4:13; 1Jn 4). Tradition holds that the apostle John moved to Ephesus in Asia Minor, and that from there he was banished to the Island of Patmos (during Domitian's reign, A.D. 81-96). He was able to return to Ephesus, where he died sometime after Trajan became emperor in A.D. 98.

- **Philip** – His name means "he who loves horses." He was practical (Jn 6:7); helpful (Jn 12:20,21); literal and confused (Jn 14:8). All became clear after Pentecost and it is believed that he lived and preached in Scythia (Ukraine today). It is reported that he was stripped naked, hung upside down by his feet, and pierced with sharp stakes in his ankles and thighs, causing him slowly to bleed to death. This is believed to have taken place in Hierapolis of Phrygia (Turkey today).

- **Bartholomew** – Also known as Nathanael. He was skeptical (Jn 1:46); honest (Jn 1:47); faithful (Jn 1:49). He said that Jesus was the "Son of God" and "King of Israel" (Jn 1:49). Some suggest that he ministered to Asia Minor and India. Tradition suggests that he was flayed alive in Armenia.

- **Thomas** – He was a twin (Jn 20:24); he was inquisitive (Jn. 14:5); doubtful (Jn 20:24,25); courageous (Jn 11:16); faithful (Jn 20:24-29). He affirmed that Jesus was Lord and God (Jn 20:28). Stories suggest that Thomas traveled to India and founded the Christian church there. He is said to have died from a spear being thrust through him, a fitting death for the one who insisted on placing his hand in the spear wound of his Lord.

- **Matthew** – The tax collector. He was penitent, humble, and had a heart for the lost (Mt 9:9-10). His message was that Jesus Christ is for everyone, Jew, and Gentile alike. Tradition states that he preached for 15 years in Palestine and that after this he went to foreign nations, the Ethiopians, Macedonians, Syrians, Persians, Parthians, and Medea being mentioned. He is said to have died a natural death either in Ethiopia or in Macedonia.

- **James** – The son of Alphaeus. There's very little information about his life and maybe therefore he was also called "James the less." Early church father's claim that he preached in Persia (modern Iran) and was crucified there.

- **Thaddaeus** – The Aramaic meaning of both Thaddaeus and Lebbaeus is the same, "beloved" or dear to the heart." He is also called Judas the son of James and called Jude, not to be confused with the author of The Epistle of Jude, which was believed to have been the Lord's half-brother. It's believed that he ministered in Syria and led the king of Syria to Christ. The supposed conversion threw the land into such turmoil that the king's unbelieving nephew had Thaddaeus bludgeoned to death with a club.

- **Simon the Canaanite** – Also known as the "Zealot." A Zealot was a member of a fanatical Jewish sect that militantly opposed the Roman domination of Palestine during the first century A.D. When the Jews rebelled against the Romans and tried to gain their independence, a group of the most fervent Jewish nationalists called themselves "Zealots." Simon was patriotic, loyal (Mk 3:18); passionate (Lk 6:15); and sacrificial (Acts 1:13). Herbert Lockyer writes, "Whatever hopes and aspiration we may have apart from Christ can find a true home in Christ. Simon, the Jewish patriot who chafed under the foreign yoke and sighed for emancipation, came to experience a sweeter yoke and a more blessed emancipation." Some stories suggest that Simon became a missionary to Persia. His death is unknown.

- **Judas Iscariot** – The betrayer. He was critical (Jn 12:4-8); greedy (Mt 26:14-16); deceitful (Mt 26:25); and treacherous (Mt 26:47-50). Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss and sold the Savior for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; Mt 26:15). Afterward Judas went out and hung himself whereas the branch broke and his bowels gushed out upon the rocks fulfilling Bible prophecy (Ps 69:25, 109:8; Acts 1:15-20). Listen to the sobering thoughts of a poem written about Judas the betrayer.

> **(v5-14) Christians Need to PREACH CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM!**

- Notice he did not say *the kingdom of Israel* is at hand, but the *kingdom of heaven*. Regarding the kingdom of Israel, the Scripture declares in 1 Kings 2:4 - *Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'*

This was not fulfilled, and Israel has been without a king since the Babylonians conquered them in 587 B.C. As a nation they crucified their King and Savior, yet Christ's kingdom can come into individual hearts, Jew, and Gentile alike. Israel's kingdom will be restored at the second coming of Christ when Jesus establishes His Millennial Kingdom on earth (**Romans 11:25-27** - *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."*).

> (v7-14) *Notice the way of "power evangelism":*

(1) Preach "the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" – GET SAVED NOW! (v7)

(2) HELP the hurting! (v8)

(3) Do it FREELY! (v9-10)

(4) Take the message CITY TO CITY! (v11-14)

- You are a MOVER and a SHAKER, if they receive salvation they are moved to eternal life! Jesus said in John 3:16-17 - *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

However, if they reject the message of salvation through Jesus Christ, then shake off the dust from your feet; remember Romans 10:15 says, *"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

- (v15) Jesus declares judgment for those who reject HIS WAY, HIS TRUTH, and HIS LIFE; just like the judgment that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah. This judgment was real for yesterday, today, and tomorrow if people do not REPENT and get SAVED!

- Observe the lessons from the past, turn to Genesis 18:20-33:

#1 - Soul-winning comes through "intercession," then "proclamation!"

#2 - Observe the judgment in Genesis 19:1-29.

- The wickedness of the city became proverbial. The sin of homosexuality was an offence against nature frequently connected with idolatrous practices. The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah is used as a warning to those who reject the gospel (Mt 11:24; Luke 17:28-30; 2 Peter 2:6; Jude verse 7; Rev 11:8).

> We must pray! We must proclaim! We must be soul-winners IN THESE LAST DAYS! GET SAVED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE FOR YOUR SOUL!!!

- Jesus said in Luke 17:28-30 - *Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.*

- Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (Also 1 Tim. 1:10)*

- In 2 Peter 2:6-8, Peter proclaimed - *and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds*

- Jude warns in verse 7 - *as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

- During the Great Tribulation in Revelation 11:8 we are told, *“And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”*

> Let's conclude our message with the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost, beginning with Acts 2:22-41.

GET SAVED!!! BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST!!!
BE A SOUL-WINNER!!! LET'S GO FOR GOD!!!