

Discipleship and Mission

Matthew 10

(Roger Kemp AM 1/3 or Noel Wraight PM 8/3)

Reflections

What were your reflections from the message Roger Kemp or Noel gave on Sunday?

How were your thoughts about 'mission' affirmed/challenged/reshaped?

"Called and Sent" vv1-8

While the reference here to Jesus 'calling' his twelve disciples is more likely a literal asking them to come to him so he can pass on his instructions, the listing of the twelve names also indicates the greater 'calling'. The call to follow, the call to leave one kingdom life behind and pursue the kingdom of God, the call to proclaim and demonstrate the kingdom of God etc. It is the same call we have received and responded to!

The disciples are 'called' by Jesus and then 'sent' out by Him.

What significance is there to our mission, if any, that we are called and sent?

What are the implications to our mission given that we are called and sent?

As called and sent ones, one of the implications is that the authority and power that we take into mission is that of the King Jesus! Have a look at some of the things Jesus instructs them to do... "raise the dead"!!

Clearly such a call could only be fulfilled with his authority and power.

Discuss whether you believe the mission of the Church today reflects the power and authority of Jesus. How does it reflect? How does it NOT reflect?

"Freely Give" vv9-15

The end of v8 says "Freely you have received; freely give" and then the passage begins talking about the disciples need to travel light and rely on God's provision. There is definitely a suggestion that this will enable them to freely give.

Why would Jesus give these instructions?

Would these instructions help the mission in any way? Does it enhance the message proclaimed? How?

There is noticeably a difference between hospitality in our culture and in the culture Jesus is speaking to here.

What principles for mission is Jesus revealing in vv11-15?

What would these principles look like in today's hospitality norms?

Particularly...what would "shaking the dust off our feet" look like for us? Is it an act of judgment on our part or simply knowing when to move on?

Vv16-36

These were not part of the passage for the sermon, however if you wished to explore them a little I have provided a few questions to provoke some discussion.

Jesus reveals here that the mission is not a safe, comfortable, pleasant or popular one. What encouragement does he give to his disciples to help them face the challenges and persecution?

Is Jesus contradicting his own title as Prince of Peace when he says in v34 "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword"? (check the verses around it for helpful hints as to what he means in this context)

What obstacles do you face in fulfilling your mission?

Mike Frost questioned us last week about whether we really live "questionable lives". In light of this passage we can take it further and ask whether our lives of mission are "challengeable lives". What do you think?

"Losing life to find it" vv37-42

Why would vv37-39 be included in instructions for mission?

(this is what we are calling people too? This level of devotion is needed to endure the persecution ahead? Our call has a high chance of being at loggerheads with family expectations etc?)

If we deeply love our family are we at risk of not being worthy to Christ?

It is possible that vv40-42 imply that not everyone is going to be travelling missionaries and so it is instructions for others who remain in one place to ensure they provide the necessary hospitality these people required.

Does this imply that not all of us are 'sent'?

This support and provision is shown to be a crucial partnership needed for mission. How should we be carrying this out today?

Can you think of "a cold cup of water" that you can give to help facilitate the mission of God?

Application

Is there a way that you can more greatly fulfill your call to mission?

Identify where you believe God has uniquely sent you?

What approach to this place/group you have been sent will most likely see this receive you and Your Lord?

Pray for one another as you GO out on mission.