

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

RLJ-1925

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AUGUST 13, 2023

PART 29: THE GREAT COMMISSION

In the last message we examined the selection and ordination of the twelve apostles.

Matthew 10:1-4

INSTRUCTIONS FROM JESUS

They were commissioned to start evangelizing among the Jews in Galilee. They were instructed not to preach and minister to the Gentiles or Samaritans. **verses 5-6**

1. The first order of business was declaring the Kingdom of God is at hand. It had not yet arrived, but would shortly come into existence after Jesus exited Paradise and re-entered the resurrected physical body. **Matthew 10:7; Colossians 2:15**

When Jesus created Adam, he was made king of the earth. **Genesis 1:28**

Lucifer became king after Adam sinned. **2 Corinthians 4-4; John 14:30**

The phrase "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" refers to the salvation plan that existed prior to Jesus' resurrection. John the Baptist was the forerunner to preach repentance and faith in the coming Messiah. **Matthew 3:7-12**

2. In conjunction with preaching that this heavenly kingdom was at hand, the apostles were also to perform practical supernatural deeds such as healing the sick, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, casting out devils (demons, evil spirits) and never charging for these services.

This action list was not symbolic, it was real and since they had been commissioned by Jesus Himself, they operated under his authority. Jesus did not fail in His supernatural work and he expected his apostles to score 100% -

Matt.10:8

3. The apostles were to operate in faith; food and lodging would be furnished by the people to whom they ministered. **verse 9**
4. They were not allowed to carry a wallet or extra clothing. Jesus wanted them to walk barefoot and have no staff for defensive purposes. The God-man wanted them to be totally reliant upon God for their well-being and protection. **verse 10**
5. The apostles were to find a worthy family when they arrived to a city and stay in that house until the mission was accomplished. **verse 11**
6. They were to take spiritual dominion over the residence and bless it, but if they determined the people in the house were not worthy of the blessing, to take it back. **verses 12-13; 1 Samuel 25:6**
7. If the apostles met resistance and were not welcomed, they were to leave the house or city, and shake the dust off their feet. **Matthew 10:14**
8. The punishment for rejecting God's servants would be more severe than what the residents of people of Sodom and Gomorrah experienced. **verse 15**



PERSECUTION WILL COME

Jesus warned the apostles that there would be persecution in the future. Therefore, the apostles were to be wise as serpents, but harmless as doves. **verse 16**

The God-man warned against the Jewish leadership and political leaders. **verses 17-18**

It won't be necessary to try and plan out what you're going to say if arrested; the Holy Spirit will give you the words to speak. **verses 18-20**

Persecution will come from family members; the people who are closest to you. Those who rejected Jesus will also hate you. Hold on to your faith knowing that Jesus is going to save you and bring you to heaven. **verses 21-22**

If disciples experienced persecution, they were to flee to another city. **verses 23**

PROPER PRIORITIES

Jesus told the apostles that they were not above their master. Whatever evil men did to the Messiah, it would also be done unto them. **verses 24-25**

Don't be afraid of persecution. What's the worst someone can do to you? While they can kill your physical body, they can't touch your soul and spirit.

You have more value than a couple of small sparrows. Nothing negative will happen unless God the Father allows it. Every hair on your head is continually counted by angels. **verses 26-31**

PUBLIC CONFESSION

If you publicly profess to be a follower of Jesus, the Son of God won't be indifferent about you and will acknowledge that you are His disciple to God the Father. Anyone publicly ashamed of Jesus will get the same treatment in heaven. You certainly don't want Jesus denying knowing you in heaven! **verses 32-33**

PEACE VS. WAR

When you come to Jesus and repent, not everyone will embrace godly values and family members may turn on you. **verses 34-37**

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Every Christian needs to take up his cross. Don't be a complainer! Taking up the cross means you will accept rejection from loved ones and others. You won't care what people say about you. Your sole focus is on Jesus and His words as found in the Bible.

Jesus is the priority and He is more important than you enjoying a nice life on earth. God can undoubtedly bless you with possessions – that is a bonus. You are here to proclaim the Lordship of Jesus Christ – your Master and Savior. **verses 38-42**

SUMMARY

What made the early New Testament believers different from the priests, scribes, Pharisees and the Sadducees? It was their ability to move in the supernatural and perform miracles.

The different Jewish leaders taught from the Old Testament, set up synagogues, employed a welfare system, officiated at weddings and funerals, but they had no power in the spirit world.

Time and time again we see that the Jewish leadership was weak and ineffective compared to the supernatural power of the Christians. **Acts 3:1-8**

It took the Devil some 200 years to strip the churches in the Roman Empire of the Holy Spirit's power and the vast majority of the modern churches are no different than the Messiah-rejecting synagogues. You will find lots of singing, preaching, praying, weddings, funerals, youth activities, and other church activities. What you won't find is casting out demons, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers, and other supernatural activities like prophecy. They simply don't exist.

The only difference between modern synagogues and churches is that synagogue members go to hell when they die because they aren't born again. The church members that are born again go to heaven at death.

There is far more to the Christian life than just being born again. Is it any wonder that the world has no respect for churches today?

Are you moving in the Holy Spirit and His gifts?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?