

DIVINE REALITIES
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Matthew 10:5-42

1. Last week we saw Jesus, moved by compassion for the multitudes, instructing His disciples to beseech the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into His harvest.
2. We also saw that in answer to their prayers Jesus summoned them, equipped them, and sent them out after instructing them.
3. Up until this point the twelve apostles were primarily observers, but now they were about to become active participants in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
4. There are some important Divine Realities contained in the instructions Jesus gave to the Twelve that we need to be aware of.

I. Jesus is the source of all the authority, power and resources we need to carry out the ministry He wants to accomplish through us.

- A. In sending out the Twelve Jesus:
 1. Gave them authority.
 2. Told them where to go and who to go to.
 3. Instructed them about what they were to take with them and what they needed to leave behind.
 4. Gave them the approach they were to use.
 - a. Related to their message.
 - b. Related to their methods.
 5. Told them how to respond to rejection.
- B. You and I can be assured that what Jesus did for the Twelve He will do for us.
 1. Prior to His ascension Jesus told His followers that, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. Matthew 28:18
 2. He also told them, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8
 3. Paul declared, "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19
- C. Just prior to His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus reminded the Apostles of God's faithfulness in Luke 22:35-38.

And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing." 36 And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one. 37 "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has its fulfillment." 38 They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

NOTE: God will always make sure that we have enough of whatever we need to do what He wants done.

D. We need to believe:

1. Jesus' words in John 15:5 when He stated, "I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.
2. Paul's words in Philippians 4:13 which read, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

II. Having been blessed we are to be a blessing.

- A. In verse 8 of our focus passage Jesus declared, "Freely you received, freely give."
- B. In verse 27 He said, "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops."
- C. We need to understand that we belong to God along with all we possess.
- D. Paul confronted the pride and sinful behavior being manifested by many in the Corinthian Church by asking two questions.
 1. 1 Corinthians 4:7
"For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"
 2. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

III. Following Jesus requires both wisdom and winsomeness.

- A. Jesus told the twelve that He was sending them out as sheep in the midst of wolves.
- B. Because of this reality they would need to be:
 1. Shrewd or wise.
 - a. The word interpreted shrewd or wise carries with it the idea of being cautious, intelligent, and prudent.
 - b. A sheep in wolf country needs to listen to and stay close to the shepherd.
 2. Winsome.
 - a. The word translated innocent actually means "unmixed."
 - b. We are to be pure people; without a mixture of evil, free from guile or deceit, innocent, and simple or down to earth.
 3. The Apostle Paul stated it well in 2 Timothy 2:19-26.
Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness." 20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 23 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. 24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

APPLICATION

1. Next week we will complete our look at this passage as we see that following Jesus calls for endurance, calls for trust, and requires that we love Him supremely.
2. As we face the challenge of advancing the Kingdom of God in our day we need to remember that at this point the disciples were not all that knowledgeable or experienced.
3. They were, in the eyes of the world, simple and uneducated men.
4. By the grace of God they were enabled to do the same things that they had observed Jesus doing.
5. Jesus promised, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also." John 14:12