Matthew
Chapter 10



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read this week's chapter, Matthew 10. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

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Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 10.

Day 1 – Shake the Dust Off Your Feet

Matthew 10:1-15

Over the last six chapters, we have watched Jesus' ministry steadily unfold as His teachings rippled throughout the region. Now in Matthew 10, Jesus transitioned from proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom Himself to commissioning His followers to carry that same message into the world. This invitation to take part in God's redemptive plan carried both incredible privilege and great cost. This chapter revealed Jesus was looking for more than casual admirers; He was summoning devoted students, allegiant followers, and dear friends who were willing to risk everything to follow Him.

1) Look up the following Scriptures and note what you learn about a few of these disciples' backgrounds, qualifications, or social status:
    a) Simon Peter (Luke 5:1-11) _____
    _____
    b) Andrew (Matthew 4:18) _____
    _____

c) James, Son of Zebedee (Mark 1:19-20) _____

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d) John, son of Zebedee (Luke 5:10) _____

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e) Matthew / Levi (Matthew 9:9-13) _____

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f) Simon (Luke 6:15) _____

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2) What did Jesus give the disciples the authority to do? (v.1)

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3) Where did Jesus expressly instruct the disciples to go and not to go? (v.5-6)

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4) What message were they to proclaim and what were they to do when they arrived? (v.7-8)

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Our modern Western ideas about travel etiquette are quite different than they were in the ancient Near East. Even today, Western and Eastern mindsets about hospitality vary significantly. Today we don't expect strangers to help and provide for us when we go on a trip or a journey, but it was a way of life for these first century missionaries. Public inns were relatively uncommon outside of major cities and often had a poor reputation. Most respectable Jewish travelers preferred to stay in homes recommended by their community whenever possible.

5) Read Luke 22:35. What did this verse reveal about why the disciples were instructed to travel light? (v.9-10)

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6) Jesus instructed the disciples to "find a worthy person and stay in their house until you leave." (v.11) Jesus wasn't sending the disciples to search for the most influential or respected person in every village, but rather to identify those whose hearts and homes were open to the message of the gospel. What actions revealed whether a person was worthy? (v.14)

Shaking the dust from one's feet was the practice of pious Jews when leaving a Gentile (non-Jewish) city. It was an expression of holiness and purity, a way of demonstrating they remained separate as a people.

7) Jesus instructed the disciples to do this when leaving a home or town that would not listen to their words. (v.14) Re-read Matthew 10:5-6. Why would this have been a significant instruction for the disciples?

Day 2 – Shrewd as Serpents – Innocent as Doves

Matthew 10:16-42

1) To what three animals did Jesus compare the disciples? (v.16)

2) In verse 16, the Greek word Matthew used for "shrewd" is *phronimos,* meaning to possess practical wisdom, discernment, and good judgment. The Greek word for "innocent" is *akeraios,* meaning pure in motive, sincere, blameless, and free from deceit or evil. Based on these definitions, what kind of balance was Jesus asking His disciples to demonstrate?

3) What did Jesus warn would happen to the disciples? (v.17-18)

4) Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to worry about what to say in those situations? (v.19-20)

5) Read Colossians 4:4–6. How did Paul's instructions complement Jesus' teaching in Matthew 10:19–20?

6) In the first century, loyalty to one's family was a high social value. Family relationships often determined a person's identity, occupation, reputation, and security.

   a) What did Jesus warn would be the cost of the disciples following Him? (v.21-22)

   b) How would this cultural context affect the way the disciples heard the warnings about family betrayal?

7) What did Jesus tell the disciples not to fear? (v.28)

8) What example did Jesus use to reassure the disciples of God's care? (v.29-31)

9) Who did Jesus say will be acknowledged or disowned before His Father in heaven? (v.32)

10) What strange thing did Jesus say about His mission on earth? (v.34)

11) As Jesus openly spoke of the rejection and suffering that awaited both Himself and His disciples, He also revealed how closely He identified with them. (v.37-42)

    a) What qualities did Jesus say characterize a person who was and was not worthy of Him?

    b) What kind of actions did Jesus say will be rewarded?

12) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots…

1) Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly chose ordinary, unlikely, and seemingly unqualified people to accomplish extraordinary purposes. Read the following passages and note the calling for each.

    a) Exodus 3:1-12

    b) Judges 6:11-16

c) 1 Samuel 16:6-13 _____

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d) Amos 7:14-15 _____

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What common pattern do you notice about the people God called and used?

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2) Read the following Scriptures: Isaiah 49:6, Romans 1:16.

a) What did these Scriptures unveil about God's plan for the global spread of the gospel message? _____

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b) What clue did this give us about the importance of the identity and mission of the first disciples? _____

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Jesus didn't call His disciples because of their social prestige, socioeconomic status, charisma, or popularity. He called them because they were uniquely positioned to be the first bearers of the good news to their fellow Jews - not because salvation was a message reserved for them, but because Jesus was the continuation of the story God had been telling throughout Israel's history. Through this story, God had revealed why humanity needed a Savior and the hope of His promised redemption. Now, Jesus had come as the fulfillment of that promise. Through the people who had carried the hope of the Messiah for generations, God would reveal His long-awaited plan and proclaim His salvation to the entire world.

3) Read the following passages and record what you learn from each about who the message of salvation was for:

a) Genesis 12:3 _____

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b) Isaiah 25:6 _____

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c) Isaiah 56:3-7 _____

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d) Malachi 1:11 _____

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e) Acts 10:34-35 _____

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In Micah 7:6, the prophet described the devastating breakdown of family relationships as a symptom of Israel's spiritual corruption and unfaithfulness. In Matthew 10, Jesus echoed this familiar imagery, not to encourage division or to suggest that conflict was the goal of the gospel, but to warn allegiance to Him required radical life change and could inevitably divide some families.

4) How did the following passages help clarify what Jesus meant when He said He came "not to bring peace, but a sword"? (v.34-36)

a) Matthew 5:9 _____

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b) Romans 12:18 _____

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c) Hebrews 12:14 _____

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5) Throughout the Old Testament, God chose individuals and the nation of Israel to represent Him and make His name known. Read Exodus 19:5-6 and Isaiah 49:6.

a) What role did God originally give Israel among the nations? _____

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b) How did Jesus' commissioning of the disciples in Matthew 10 continue that mission? _____

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Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

Traditionally, first century disciples first sought their rabbi. They would then await an approval from the rabbi to study under him, but Matthew said Jesus "called" His disciples. (v. 1) Jesus' authority and intentionality in drawing the twelve closely to Himself for a specific mission and purpose was unique. However, this divine invitation required a willing response from the disciples.

1) **Think of a time you were or wished to be chosen for something. How did that experience shape your sense of purpose or belonging?

2) Knowing Jesus has called you with purpose and intention, what confidence or assurance should that give you about your identity and value in the kingdom?

The men Jesus called came from a wide variety of backgrounds - from fishermen and religious activists to tax collectors and men wealthy enough to employ servants. But one trait they all shared was a willingness to leave their old way of life and thinking behind them to follow Jesus.

3) Have you ever felt like you just don't have the "right resume" to be a disciple of Jesus?

4) The twelve were also called because they were uniquely positioned to take the gospel to their Jewish community. What community are you uniquely positioned to carry the gospel?

5) After telling the disciples to proclaim the Gospel and perform miracles, Jesus reminded them that, "Freely you have received, freely give." (v.7-8)

a) What have we all freely received from God? _____

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b) **Looking back over your life, what gifts, blessings or acts of grace have you received from God you could never have earned? _____

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c) What does it mean for you to freely give in response to all that we have received? _____

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6) Jesus instructed the disciples to travel lightly, trusting in God to provide their basic needs through the communities they ministered to because "the worker is worth his keep." (v.9-10) Offering prayer, financial support, practical help, and encouragement to those faithfully serving and ministering around you is the responsibility of the body of Christ. Take a moment to consider those ministering to and around you. How can you care for them?

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7) **Jesus called His followers to be both "shrewd as serpents" and "innocent as doves." How can you remain discerning and wise without becoming cynical or manipulative? Likewise, how can you remain innocent without becoming naïve?

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Throughout this passage, Jesus reminded us following Him came with a cost. Rejection, suffering, broken relationships, and conflict weren't things He desired for His people, but they were often the result of faithfully following Him in a world that doesn't. Jesus' presence demanded a response, and when we choose to follow Him, our lives will inevitably begin to look different from those whose hope is found elsewhere.

8) **Where have you experienced the cost of following Christ, and how has God used that experience to deepen your faith?

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9) Is there an area of your life where the desire for approval or comfort has made it difficult to follow Jesus wholeheartedly?

Throughout this chapter, Jesus called His followers to come as they were and follow Him wholeheartedly. He invited them to exchange the world's promises of comfort, security, approval, and identity for the lasting hope, purpose, and reward found in wholehearted allegiance to Him. As they went, they were not sent alone; they were sent as His representatives, trusting in His love, His provision, and His presence.

10) **Who has faithfully represented Christ to you? How did God use that person's life, words, or actions to draw you closer to Him?

11) Jesus said those who receive His disciples receive Him. (v.40–42) If someone encountered Jesus only through the way you live, speak, and love, what picture of Him would they see?

12) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 10 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God's living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

1) **What part of God's redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

2) **What insights gained from this chapter challenged you to think or act differently?

3) Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?

4) What part of God's kingdom seemed upside down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood, what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?