

Matthew 10 | “Mission Preparations, Part 1”
Preached on August 27, 2023 by Pastor Matt Brown

You can turn in your Bibles to Matthew 10 this morning, and I’ll be covering this chapter in two parts.

I once again thought I could cover the whole chapter in one sermon, but there’s just way too much in here to go over.

So today, we will be covering verses 1-10, and I’ll start out by reading those. *[READ]*

Have you ever been unprepared for something? *[pause]*

A couple weeks ago, we were on vacation, and I didn’t pack any water shoes or sandals for my feet because I figured that I wouldn’t need them.

But little did I realize that there was a plan to take the kids to a shallow section of water where there were rocks everywhere. *[pause]*

The kids had Crocs on, so they were fine walking all over the rocks, but I had to try to walk on sharp rocks with bare feet. *[pause]*

I wasn’t prepared, and it hindered my ability to follow my kids around in the water. *[pauseeee]*

What about this: have you ever gone on a mission trip?

I’ve been on a couple, and what’s important is that each person who is going is *prepared*. *[pause]*

So what will happen is that you have various meetings before you go to meet and talk through things to make sure everyone is prepared to go. *[pause]*

They talk about what you will be doing on the trip, so that everyone is on the same page as to what exactly their mission is.

They talk about what you must bring on the trip, so that you are equipped to go.

They talk about how to conduct yourself on the trip, so that everyone is doing what’s right.

And they talk about what to expect on the mission trip, so that each person is mentally prepared for what is to come and is not caught off guard. *[pause]*

Just imagine a group on a mission trip, who doesn’t know their purpose for being there, didn’t bring the right things, and had no idea what to expect when they got there.

It would not be a pretty sight. *[pause]*

The same type of thing happens for those in the military about to go on a mission - everyone must be prepared.

Imagine the special forces not being prepared for a mission, not knowing what they were doing, not having the right equipment, and not knowing what to expect. *[pauseeee]*

These ‘mission preparations’ are vital to mission success.

Everyone must be on the same page as to the purpose and expectations of what will go down on the mission, so that each person can be focused and endure whatever comes. *[pauseeee]*

Well here in Matthew 10, Jesus is preparing His disciples for mission, and through that, He prepares *us* for going on mission for Him, as well. *[pause]*

He talks about what the disciples will be doing, what they need to bring, how they are to conduct themselves, and what to expect.

And through this chapter, we learn some very important things, as we think about being on mission for Christ. *[pause]*

First...

I. Remember who called and sent you. (1-8a)

Now as we will apply what we learn today, there will be some things that are specific to the 12 disciples, and some things specific to this short-term mission that they take...

...Yet there will be timeless principles that do apply to us as disciples of Jesus. *[pauseeee]*

In verses 1-8, we see Jesus calling, instructing, and sending out His disciples to go on mission for Him. *[pauseeee]*

You know, it matters *who* sends us to do something, doesn't it? *[pause]*

Maybe a month or two ago, the church had to get our boiler inspected, and so the boiler inspector came in and as I greeted him, immediately he did something.

He showed me his badge in order to prove that he was connected to and sent by a certain organization. *[pause]*

He did this because it matters who sends us to do something.

Not just any random person could come in and officially inspect a boiler.

So also, it truly matters who sends us because it gives us credibility for our mission. *[pause]*

And now just think about *who* it is that calls and sends us.

It's the One who we just learned about all throughout chapters 1-9, and there's no one higher or better...

He's the promised Messiah and King, who was born of a virgin.

He's the One who, when He was baptized, the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."¹ *[pause]*

He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness, yet perfectly withstood His attempts.

He's the great light that dawns on those in darkness.

He gave the authoritative Sermon on the Mount, and everyone who hears and does His words is like a wise man, building his house on the rock. *[pause]*

And He's the One who performed amazing miracles, showing power over sickness, storms, and spiritual powers.

That Jesus Christ is the One who has called and sent *you* on mission in this world, just think of the Great Commission.² *[pauseeee]*

What an honor and a privilege to be called and sent by Christ!

Being sent by Him gives us confidence in our mission that our mission is crucial and will not fail, so why fear or give up?

Being sent by Him gives us credibility, for we remember that we are His ambassadors in the world.

And being sent by Him should *humble us*. *[pauseeee]*

Jesus involves us?!

Do you ever stand amazed at the fact that Christ involves you in His mission in the world?

That should be humbling. *[pauseeee]*

In the first 9 chapters of the book of Matthew, Jesus was single-handedly ministering in the region, but now He will include His disciples.

And they realize that they are some of the very ones who they were to be praying for to go out into the harvest. *[pauseeee]*

We get to play a part in something eternally significant, big, and amazing!

¹ Matthew 3:17.

² This is referring to Matthew 28:18-20.

We are involved in sharing the good news of Jesus, and people may be saved, and lives transformed for eternity. *[pauseeee]*

What we participate in isn't just something that brings a shallow, temporary high, but can affect generations! *[pauseeee]*

Let's say that you share Christ with a man who gets saved.

Now his eternity is forever changed, but not only that, now he will live differently which will impact all those he knows.

Now he may lead his family to Christ, and Lord willing, this impact will be felt for generations as his children and his children's children come to know the Lord and serve Him.

Or he could then lead others to Christ, and it just multiplies and multiplies. *[pauseeee]*

What an amazing mission that Jesus has summoned us to play a part in!

What Christ calls us to is not some cheap thrill that wears off in an hour, but something that reverberates throughout eternity. *[pauseeeee]*

The One who has called us and sent us is amazing, we get to serve in an amazing mission, all the while, we who are not amazing get to participate! *[pause]*

We don't deserve to be used by God, for just consider the disciples that Jesus chose...

He didn't pick the high up, but sort of a ragtag group of people. *[pause]*

In Acts 4, it says that the people were astonished by the disciples because they were "uneducated, common men".³ *[pause]*

You had fishermen, a tax collector, a zealot, and various others. *[pause]*

If anyone else was picking their prime, first disciples, these guys wouldn't be it.

Yet God loves to choose the weak and lowly of this world to show off His glory.

He loves to use jars of clay, such as us, "to show that the surpassing power belongs to [Him] and not to us."⁴ *[pauseeee]*

Who are we that Christ calls and sends us as His representatives into the world?

We are nobodies; we are undeserving.

Yet praise the Lord that 'nobodies' and the 'undeserving' are exactly the types of people that God delights to use. *[pauseeeee]*

³ Acts 4:13.

⁴ 2 Corinthians 4:7.

When's the last time that you remembered *who* has called and sent you on mission in the world?

Do you ever marvel that you serve the risen Savior?

Do you ever stand in awe that you get to play a part in an eternally significant work that God is doing in the world?

And are you ever humbled that Christ would choose to use *you*? [pauseeeee]

Here's a question: do you even realize that you are sent by Christ on a mission?

Yes, I know that we aren't apostles, and we aren't a part of the original 12 disciples, but we are still sent on mission for Christ.

The original disciples were to make disciples, who would then make other disciples in the world, and so we are all ambassadors for Christ, to be going and sharing Jesus with others.⁵ [pauseeee]

Many don't even think this way.

We get caught up in our own lives, hobbies, and endeavors.

We see being a follower of Christ as a little thing on the side, instead of it being who we are and what we are to be doing.

But may God use His Word to radically change our mindsets and priorities to be in line with who we are in Christ!...

We are servants and representatives of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. [pauseeeee]

We are sent on a mission and our mission is to proclaim a message. [pause]

In verse 7, Jesus tells the disciples to "proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" [pause]

They had a message, and we have a message to share - the King has come to bring forgiveness and life, so repent and believe! [pause]

Are you sharing that message?

The message of Jesus Christ and how salvation is found in His name for He died and rose again for us.

We don't share our own message or twist the message, but we share *THE* message of the saving rule of God, who delivers rebels, who bow the knee in repentance and faith. [pauseeeee]

What an important message, but do we proclaim it? [pause]

⁵ See Matthew 28:18-20 & 2 Corinthians 5:20.

For the original disciples, they had the power to heal, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons.

Those miracles *authenticated* their message, and so we as a church don't believe that those miracles continue today.

But really, their miracles were showing what the Gospel does spiritually...

It brings spiritual healing, it makes people spiritually alive, cleanses them from sin, and breaks Satan's stronghold on their lives.

That's the power of the message that we declare! *[pauseeee]*

When people turn in faith to Jesus Christ, a miracle is happening, for they are healed, made alive, cleansed, and freed. *[pause]*

We don't always think of people being saved in that way, but really, God is working a miracle in their life.

And it's through the Spirit's power that we are given boldness to speak the Gospel, and it's through the Spirit's power that He works on that person's heart. *[pauseeee]*

Stand humbled and amazed, remembering not only who has called and sent you, but also remembering that you are called and sent. *[pauseeee]*

That's an important thing to keep in mind as you go on mission for Christ everyday, but there's something else found in this chapter...

As we are on mission for Christ, we should...

II. Trust God to provide. (8b-10)

Notice what Jesus says in verses 8b-10...

"You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food." *[pause]*

Now certainly the extreme bare minimum that Jesus tells them to take here is a temporary thing for it's a special circumstance.

Even in Luke 22:35 and following, Jesus gives a different command based on new circumstances. *[pauseeee]*

So this was to be a short-term trip, yet the small amount that the disciples could take still teaches us an important principle...

...We should trust God to provide. *[pause]*

The disciples were going out on their first mission, and they needed to be *trained to trust*.

And Jesus' instructions would push them to trust the Lord for their provisions. *[pauseeee]*

Many times in our need, God is training us to trust. *[pause]*

We don't always see it that way, do we?

We complain that we don't have enough, or we become overtaken with worry.

Yet in our need, God is saying, "Trust me. I will provide." *[pause]*

Imagine how hard this would have been for the disciples.

They weren't allowed to acquire money to take with them.

Not even a bag, an extra tunic, extra sandals, or a staff.

They were going out on a mission for the first time, and all they could really take is what they had with them. [pauseeee]

That would take a lot of faith.

And so they couldn't take anything extra, but they did have to take faith. *[pause]*

They would have to trust the Lord day-by-day.

Yet this is Jesus' training regiment because they would need this for the rest of their lives in ministry. *[pause]*

As they ministered in the future, they would need to trust God to provide.

They couldn't trust their own resources, but they would have to remember to trust God everyday.

That's why we are told to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."⁶ *[pauseeee]*

Many times this is not easy for us to do because our minds keep going to the 'what if's' of life.

But God's answer to every worried "what if" is a calming "trust Me". *[pauseeee]*

So what was Christ doing in commanding the disciples not to take anything extra for the trip, but the bare minimum?

He was training them to trust.

But why?

⁶ Matthew 6:11.

Because we need to be constantly reminded that as we go through life and as we minister to others, we are not on our own. *[pauseeeee]*

It's interesting how so many of us live as though we were atheists!

Of course, we would never say that we were atheists, yet we live as though there is no God. *[pause]*

We think that it all depends on us to provide for our needs, and we become swamped with debilitating worry.

We think that it all depends on us to minister to others, and that it depends on us for the result.

And if the disciples had acquired a bunch of money beforehand for the trip, brought a couple bags, extra clothing and things like that - they would have never learned this valuable lesson. *[pause]*

And what's the lesson?

Later on in Luke 22:35, Jesus says this to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing."

You see, it may have been hard to go out with only the clothes on their back, but once they had experienced the provision of God, they understood that when they follow Christ, *they lack nothing*. *[pauseee]*

Do you trust that God will provide?

Do you truly believe that when you follow Christ, you lack nothing?

That as Psalm 23 says, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."⁷ *[pause]*

When God sends us on a mission, He equips us and provides exactly what we need to do what He has called us to do.

God always gives us what we need to do His will. *[pause]*

Are you a teacher? You can trust that He will give you what you need to be a good witness at school.

Are you a stay-at-home mom? You can trust that He will provide precisely what you need to minister to your children.

Are you retired? God provides what you need to minister to someone younger.

We are all disciple-makers, though our disciple-making circumstances may look different.

⁷ Psalm 23:1.

But wherever we go, we can go trusting. *[pauseeee]*

So though the disciples were to give freely, and not take much, they didn't need to worry.

Why? For as He said here, "the laborer deserves his food."

God would take care of His workers, and He would do so through the generosity of those who they ministered to. *[pauseeee]*

As the disciples ministered they weren't allowed to charge fees and make profit off of their ministry, for they had "received without paying".

They hadn't earned their ministry or bought their spiritual gifts, but had received it all without payment. *[pause]*

So since He gave freely to the disciples, they were to give freely to others. *[pauseeee]*

You see, the disciples could have charged to heal people and made a vast amount of money, but that's not how God wants it done.

He wants to freely give to people because He is a generous and gracious God.

So ministry is never to be done by charging a fee, but we freely give because we have freely received. *[pauseeee]*

As a church, we should always minister and freely give to others.

We never charge a fee, not simply because we are considered a non-profit by the government and we can't, but because God has freely given to us. *[pause]*

This takes sacrifice and faith, but we don't have to worry, for we can trust the Lord, who has sent us on mission in this world.

So we share the free message of Christ freely and trust that God will provide for our needs along the way. *[pauseeee]*

You know, the greatest gift that God has freely given to us is His Son, Jesus Christ.

We have received salvation without paying, for it couldn't be earned. *[pause]*

Scripture says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."⁸ *[pause]*

We couldn't save ourselves by paying with our works, for our sin was too great, and our works too small.

⁸ Ephesians 2:8-9.

We couldn't pay enough money to be made right with God, for money cannot pay down our sin debt.

But in grace, God freely gave us His Son, who died on the Cross for our sins, and rose from the grave.

And now all those who simply repent and trust in Him are saved. *[pause]*

We don't come with any kind of money or payment, but we come without money, for as Revelation 21 says, "To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."⁹ *[pauseeee]*

What a gift we have received!

We have certainly 'received without paying', so we give freely and serve faithfully on this mission that Christ has called us to. *[pauseeeee]*

We will get to the third thing next week that Jesus prepares us with as we go on mission for him, but for this week...

Remember and trust who sent you!

We are called and sent by the Savior Himself. *[pause]*

What a mission we get to be on!

Think about it this way: we *get to* serve Christ in His mission in the world.

Do you ever think of ministry that way: as something that you 'get to' do? *[pause]*

We are called to an eternally significant mission that changes lives forever as people come to know and believe in the Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are simply messengers and servants, but will we step up and go? *[pause]*

Who can you talk to about Jesus this week?

Is it that neighbor you have?

Is it that co-worker of yours?

Is it that person at the grocery store that you keep seeing? *[pauseeee]*

Who could you serve and minister to this week?

Could you show them practical love in a concrete way? *[pauseeee]*

⁹ Revelation 21:6.

As you think about doing what God has called you to do, being on mission for Christ - remember and trust who sent you. *[pause]*

Are you nervous about talking to someone about Jesus? Remember who sent you and trust that He will give you what you need.

Do you feel inadequate to step up and serve in some way in the church? Remember and trust who sent you, He will give you what you need each day. *[pause]*

We, who are First Baptist Church of Clearfield, have a mission that we have been sent on by Jesus Christ: making disciples here in Clearfield County.

Are we doing it?

Are we remembering who sent us?

And are we trusting Him to provide?