



PART TWO

INTRODUCTION

The second sermon in the Gospel of Matthew (chapters 9 & 10) began with Jesus performing miracles. The disciples who were with Him felt recognised and significant among those around them. They were part of Jesus' chosen group and their names were on the list.

A major concern for the church today is that Christians just want their names to be in the Lamb's Book of Life and become spectators in His Kingdom. In actual fact, Jesus wants us to be part of His team and to play to win. If we are chosen, it also means that we are sent. God has a purpose and mission for all of us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share some of your experiences of being chosen or selected to be part of a team (e.g. a sports team, a leadership team in an organisation etc.) How did you feel? How did you prepare yourself?
2. When Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion for them (Matt 9: 35 – 38). He told the disciples that the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. What was the first task that Jesus instructed His disciples to do and why?
3. Read Matt 10: 1-4. Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.
 - i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.
 - ii. Read the passage aloud
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
 - iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the keywords? What words or ideas are repeated?

v. Some leading questions of the text:

- How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
- How does the passage relate to Jesus?
- What does this teach us about God?
- How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?

vi. Some application questions of the passage:

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude I need to change?
- How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?

4. In Matt 10: 5-42, we find Jesus' description of His mission for the disciples through the following 8 keywords (Place, Provision, Proclamation, Person, Persecution, Promise, Priority and Profit). What did Jesus mean by these 8 keywords? Where has God send you to proclaim the good news?

Take some time to review what you have learned in Matthew 10. What has God showed or challenged you to obey? Share with your group.

PRAY: Father, thank You for sending Your apostles. Help me to respond to Your calling, that I, too, may be sent to proclaim the good news to this world.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

God has only one list. If you are on His list, you are to be sent out. You have a mission to accomplish. When you go to the **place** that Jesus sent you, He will provide the **provision** for the mission. **Proclaim** the Good News of the Kingdom and look for the **person** of peace to receive you. You will face **persecution** & resistance but do not be afraid because God has **promised** to be with you. Make Jesus your **priority** and you will **profit** and receive the rewards He has prepared for you.

You will experience the power of God in your life when you are on His team. With Jesus as your coach and the Holy Spirit as your captain, you are already on the winning side. The winning team on the field feels the greatest joy and fulfillment when the whistle blows at the end of the game.

Will you take your place on the playing field? Will you be on mission for Christ?

CHANGE YOUR MINDSET

*“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.” ~ **Matthew 9:35-38 (ESV)***