

## Notes for Matthew -Chapter 10 (Page 1 of 6)

### Introduction - How to be a good witness for Jesus

1. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20).
  - a. This passage is known as "The Great Commission". It calls us to go make disciples.
  - b. Now what do we do? The answer to that question is the subject of Chapter 10.
2. When you study the actions of the disciples in the Gospels, they don't do very much.
  - a. It wasn't until the Holy Spirit came down on the church that you begin to read of the miracles and the trials of the apostles as described here in Matthew 10.
3. Jesus is teaching his disciples and us what to expect if we are to follow him.
  - a. In this chapter Jesus gives a combination of direct orders and future predictions.
  - b. Almost the entire chapter is a speech by Jesus explaining to the disciples their jobs as missionaries and witnesses for him.
  - c. It is common in Jewish-prophecy to have double-fulfillment in its predictions, mixing short-term predictions (immediate time era) with long term predictions.

Chapter 10 Verse 1: He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

1. Verse 1 is an overview commentary by Matthew on the whole chapter.
  - a. Verses 2-4 are where Matthew names the 12 disciples.
  - b. From Verse 5 to the end of the Chapter is a speech by Jesus.
2. Like a good teacher, there comes a time to tell your students, "Ok people, its time for you to stop just observing and it is time for you to go out on your own. You've watched what I do, now go and do likewise. Here are some final warnings before you go".
3. John's personal example of how "Chapter 10" fit into my life.
  - a. One time I was reading my bible and I saw this verse:
    - i. "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!" (Hebrews 5:12, NIV)
  - b. That was God telling me to stop "just" studying the bible and start teaching it to others.
  - c. This is just my personal example. My point is that we are all called to serve in some capacity, not just to sit in church and "take it in".
4. Jesus gives the disciples authority to "drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness".
  - a. It was one thing to watch Jesus do that. It is another thing to do it yourself!
  - b. Yet in the book of Acts, we read of Jesus' disciples doing just that.
  - c. In Luke Chapter 10, we read of a different time when Jesus sends out 72 followers to cast out demons and do miracles.
    - i. The interesting thing is that when these 72 guys report back of how they cast out demons, note Jesus response:
    - ii. "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20, NIV).
    - iii. Healing people is a great way to have them listen to what you have to say. ☺
    - iv. Remember these healed people are going to die again. Eternal life is the issue!

## Notes for Matthew Chapter 2 (Page 2 of 6)

Verses 2-4: These are the names of the twelve apostles first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

1. Here we have the names of the 12 apostles.
2. Notice that Jesus didn't go to the best Jewish seminary in town and say, "Let me have your top 12 students". ☺ He picked "average Joe's". He picked mostly uneducated fishermen.
  - a. Never believe that you are "inadequate" to be a witness for Jesus. God can and does use anyone who is willing to be his disciple. God is not looking for ability, but availability.
3. Some of these disciples we know a lot about, and some we know very little about.
  - a. Peter is the most obvious example of a disciple we know a lot about.
    - i. It is interesting to compare how Peter acts in the Gospel accounts with how Peter acts in the Book of Acts and Peter's letters. Peter is changed from a bumbling, overzealous person into an articulate leader after the Holy Spirit comes upon him.
  - b. Andrew, along with his brother John were originally disciples of John the Baptist. (John 1:40). Therefore Andrew knew who Jesus was when he was called out by John the Baptist. It wasn't until later that Jesus called Andrew to follow Him. (Matthew 4:18).
  - c. My point here is that some disciples were fairly quiet and worked in the background.
  - d. If you don't have "Peter's boldness", don't let that stop you from becoming a witness for Jesus. Jesus picked all sorts of people, not just bold ones, but quiet ones as well.
4. Notice that among the 12 disciples, Matthew is the only one that lists his profession.
  - a. I believe as Matthew realized his own betrayal and sinfulness, he never forgot "who he was". Notice that Jesus never condemned Matthew's former profession. Matthew only did this to himself. Jesus doesn't see us as the way we were, only for our potential.
5. Another thing to notice is the disciple called, "Simon the Zealot". (This is not Simon-Peter.)
  - a. The "Zealot's" was a political movement among the Jews that called for a revolution.
    - i. They believed it was better to be dead than a slave to Rome.
  - b. In the same group of 12 is a zealot and Matthew the former tax collector.
  - c. Jesus draws people together, who normally have nothing in common.
6. When you read the list of 12 disciples elsewhere in the Gospels, the names don't always match up evenly. The order is often different. Some people have more than one name, just like today.
7. Judas who betrayed Jesus is always placed last in these lists. Nobody likes a turncoat, no matter what group they are.

Verses 5-6: These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.

1. From here to the end of the Chapter is one speech by Jesus.
2. You have to remember that in a Jewish mind at that time, salvation was only to the Jews, or to someone converting to Judaism.
  - a. To tell the disciples to go to Samaritans or Gentiles at this time would have been too radical for them to handle.
  - b. Jesus works that way in our life too. God has far greater plans for our lives than we can comprehend at any one moment. His instructions are often, "Here is what I want you do now". Once we complete that assignment we may get larger assignments later.
  - c. God's plan was for everybody to be saved including Gentiles. In Acts 1:8; Jesus specifically states that we are to preach the Gospel to "Samaria and the ends of the earth". That is to say, "non-Jews".
  - d. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (Romans 1:16, NIV).

## Notes for Matthew - Chapter 10 (Page 3 of 6)

Verses 7: As you go, preach this message 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'

1. That is the entirety of the message.
2. The rest of the chapter is all about miracles the disciples are to perform in validation of this simple message and warning about what happens when they preach this message.
3. The message, "The kingdom of heaven is near" is a reference that salvation comes from the acknowledgement of Jesus as Savior.
  - a. It is not that salvation can be obtained from visiting some distant land. (It is "near").
  - b. It does not come by a lifetime of following the rules of the Old Testament. (It is "near").

Verses 8: Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

1. Jesus says to go perform the miracles like the ones He has done in the last two chapters.
2. Jesus simply says in effect "I'm given you this power for free. Since I give it for free, give it to others for free. Use it freely and don't charge. I didn't charge people when I performed miracles on them. Go and do likewise". The message of eternal salvation is meant to be free.

Verses 9-10: Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; <sup>10</sup> take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

1. On this particularly journey, Jesus tells them not to take any extra supplies
2. On another occasion, right before Jesus crucifixion, He gave these instructions to his disciples: "He (Jesus) said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one". (Luke 22:36, NIV).
  - a. That tells me that Jesus instructions in Matthew are temporary for this particular journey.
3. If we go on a missionary journey, there is nothing wrong with planning and taking supplies.
4. Even with our supplies in hand, we are still fully dependent upon God. God may take away your supplies and still expect you to be a missionary. The key is to focus on God for our needs and not the supplies in hand. "Where God leads, God provides."

Verses 11-15: "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. <sup>15</sup> I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

1. Let me paraphrase. "Go into a town and go to the town square. Look around for a friendly, or maybe a religious person. Preach the gospel message in the town square and see if you get any friendly response. If someone responds positively, ask to stay at their house. When you stay at that house, give a blessing from God upon that house. If you don't find someone, publicly shake the dust off your feet as you leave as a warning to these townspeople.
2. Verse 15 says that Sodom and Gomorrah will be judged lighter than that town.
  - a. These towns in Israel will receive less judgment than Sodom & Gomorrah because they were "only" guilty of disobeying God's commandants. These towns where the disciples will preach have greater guilt because they rejected the Gospel message.
  - b. Jesus said, "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:48, NIV)
3. These verses imply there are different degrees of punishment by God.
4. It also implies God judges towns (and nations too!) as well as people.

## Notes for Matthew - Chapter 10 (Page 4 of 6)

Verse 16: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

1. I believe the principal of “shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves” should apply to our Christian witnesses at all times.
  - a. It means as “doves” our attitude should be peaceful. If they can see how you can have peace in difficult situations, which is something the world will never offer.
  - b. As “shrewd snakes”, we should be aware of what the world is like.  
God wants us to be a witness to the world, but at the same time not “trust” the world.

Verses 17-18: “Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

1. Remember that we have “double-fulfillments” in this prediction by Jesus.
2. In the immediate context, Jesus was sending his disciples into towns ahead of himself to tell people about Jesus and his salvation plan. The modern term is the “front-runner”.
3. This verse also applies to the disciples in the post-resurrection era.
4. When we read of the apostles’ lives in the Book of Acts, all of these predictions by Jesus in these two verses came literally true. Most of them through Paul.
  - a. Paul is not one of the “12”. This is why these verses have double-fulfillments.

Verses 19-20: But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

1. Notice Jesus doesn’t say, “If they arrest you”. It says, “When they arrest you”.
2. Jesus then says, at that moment, the Holy Spirit will guide you as to what to say.
3. In “trial” situations, the Holy Spirit will help you recall what God wants you to say.
  - a. You still have to learn the fundamentals of Christianity in the first place.
4. Some commentators make a big deal about the phrase “Spirit of your Father”.
  - a. I find it just a colorful way of saying the Holy Spirit at a time prior to the “formal” coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Verses 21: “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

1. Imagine living in a world where Christianity is illegal. Would you turn in your own parents or your children to save your own life? Probably not. Most parents would be more than willing to die to save their own children.
2. I would have to be so anti-Jesus that I thought I was “doing the world a favor” by betraying my own child/parent/sibling.

Verses 22: All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

1. I usually say, “All means all”, but in this context, “all” refers to “all who are unsaved”.
2. First, Satan himself wants to attack you as a Christian. His job is to make you an ineffective witness for Jesus as to not lead others to salvation.
3. Second, people themselves won’t come to Jesus because they don’t want to change their lifestyle.
4. This verse is about “hanging in there” during times of persecution.
5. By the way, this is not saying “If you are scared to stand up for Jesus at one time, you then lose your salvation”. Peter denied Jesus three times and I believe Peter is in heaven right now. ☺
6. This warning is about a lifetime of the denial of Jesus.

## Notes for Matthew - Chapter 10 (Page 5 of 6)

Verse 23: When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

1. Notice Verse 23 does not say, "When you are persecuted, stand there and let people hit you over and over again." ☺ It says to flee. In times of persecution, it is "biblical" to run.
  - a. Jesus is saying that when persecution comes from being a witness, if you can, then flee.
2. Jesus then goes on to say in effect, that before the disciples go to every single city and town in Israel, "The Son of Man" will come.
  - a. The majority "scholarly" opinion is that this is about judgment on the Nation of Israel.
  - b. Approx. 40 years after Jesus, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans, and most of Israel.

Verses 24-25: "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

1. Believers are called "disciples" (i.e. "disciplined"). The word "Christians" means "little Christ's".
2. This is not about being perfect. This is about trusting that God is working through us to change us into his image.
3. "Beelzebub" means "Lord of the Household". It refers to Satan himself being the chief demon of the legions of demons.
  - a. Jesus is saying in effect, "If they call me a devil, imagine what they are going to call you".

Verses 26-27: "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

1. Jesus then says in effect, "Look, don't worry about the persecution. Just go out there and proclaim the gospel message. The things I teach you in our private lessons I want you to preach boldly. I want you to be my "amplifier"".
2. We are not to fear the attacks of the world, but to expect them. We should never make them an excuse to not be a good witness for Jesus.

Verses 28-31: "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

1. Jesus is saying in effect, "Look, people will try to kill you for what you believe. In fact, some of you *will* die for your beliefs. Don't worry, you are going to live forever. That doesn't mean you are to be cowardly, nor does it mean you are to be suicidal (remember the "flee" verse). Be aware that God knows everything you are going through."
2. The sparrow, in terms of market value, had little worth. Two were sold for the modern equivalent of a few cents. Yet Verse 31 says God cares more for you than sparrows.

Verses 32-33: "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

1. Verse 32 is the biblical basis for the public confession of our allegiance to Jesus.
2. Many churches (e.g., Roman Catholics) have public rituals called "confirmation" where young teens and adults publicly acknowledge their allegiance to Christ.
3. Many evangelical churches use this as the basis for "altar calls". This is where they ask if anyone in the audience wants to step forward (to the altar) and acknowledge Jesus as their savior.
4. Personally, I don't believe any of these rituals are a requirement for salvation. One can simply acknowledge Jesus in the privacy of their own hearts and be saved.
  - a. If one does do it "privately", it is important to share that with other Christians.

## Notes for Matthew - Chapter 10 (Page 6 of 6)

Verses 34-36: Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn " `a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- <sup>36</sup> a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

1. Well now, there is a set of verses you don't see on Christmas cards very often. ☺
2. Jesus will cause division. In some cases it will cause division so severe it will separate families.
  - a. I find this is especially true for people who come from non-Christian homes. You can expect rebellion and family splits over this issue.

Verses 37-39: "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup> and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. Many have to choose between Jesus and family. Jesus is not anti-family. This is about choice.
2. The secret of being a good husband/wife, a good son/daughter, a good parent is to make Jesus a priority over all of them. It is through God's love than I can be a better spouse, parent, etc.
3. Jesus says in Verse 39: "Whoever finds his life will lose it."
  - a. This means that if you live for your pleasure or your own interest you will lose your life and not have eternal salvation. That is why Jesus commented that unless you love me more than family members, you cannot be his disciple.
  - b. It is about telling God, "OK, I can't please you on my own effort. Everything I own, everything I am responsible for now belongs to you. I know take my marching orders from God and I seek you daily (through prayer and God's word) for guidance as to how to live my life. I want you to reign, not me."
  - c. God, and not you, decides how long you will live. Since we don't know the date and time, we should live as long as possible (healthy lifestyle, nothing suicidal) until God calls us home. During that remaining time era, we are to live for God.
  - d. "An ancient Roman coin depicted an ox facing both an altar and a plow with the inscription "Ready for either." That should be the attitude of every believer." (John MacArthur's Commentary on Matthew Chapter 10).
  - e. "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (Ecclesiastes 12:13, NIV)

Verses 40-41: "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward.

1. First of all, notice that there are rewards in heaven. Jesus says there is a "prophet's reward" and a "righteous man's reward". I don't know if the pay scale is different for each one.
2. These verses are saying in effect is whoever helps and/or supports a prophet receives the same reward as the prophet. The same principle applies for the righteous man.
3. This calls for believers to financially and prayerfully support prophets, missionaries, church leaders etc. The eternal benefit is the same reward as both groups.

Verse 42: And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

1. Notice the verse says the "little ones" is not a reference to children, but to his disciples.
  - a. On one hand it represents helping others in the simplest of ways.
  - b. It also represents caring for the needs of other Christians.