What Does It Mean to be a DISCIPLE Today?

Matthew 10:1-42

Introduction

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Chapter 10 is the answer to that prayer.
- The disciples were the answer to their own prayers.
- Jesus is the Lord of the harvest.

What does it mean to be a disciple today?

I. Jesus calls us to join in the harvest. Matthew 10:1-4

This is the first time they are called apostles.
This is their commissioning.

These men spent time with Jesus and they were taught by him directly. Even Paul, would be given the gospel by revelation from Jesus. Galatians 1:12

Their role is unique in the church. There will never again be apostles in this sense of the word.

The apostles were sent out with a delegated authority. They could not do this in their own strength and neither can we.

When Jesus calls us to a task, he will give us the resources we need to fulfill it.
II. Jesus defines the mission. Matthew 10:5-31

The apostles were instructed:
- To go to the Jew first. Verses 5 – 16
- To preach “the kingdom of heaven is near.”
- To heal the sick and raise the dead.
- To go from village to village.

Rejecting God’s messengers is more serious than Sodom and Gomorrah’s rejection of the angelic visitors.

One’s eternal destiny turns on what we do with Jesus.

The apostle’s life and ministry were to back up the message they preached.

Our life should also. We need to walk the talk.

In verses 17-31 Jesus describes what it will be like to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.

- Opposition will increase.
- It will come from governors and kings.
- It will even come from family.

They will treat you this way because you belong to Jesus. Verses 24-25

Don’t be afraid.
Verses 26-31
- Truth will triumph.
- God will watch over you.
- God will reward you.

III. Following Jesus involves risk and reward. Matthew 10:32-42
There are risks in following Jesus.
- Opposition.
- Rejection by family.
- Imprisonment.
- Death.

But the rewards are so much greater.
- The salvation of our souls and the deliverance from hell.
- The joy of knowing Jesus and seeing God use us in his service.
- The spiritual fruit he produces in our life and in others.
- The gift of eternal life.
- An eternal reward that is far beyond what we could ask or imagine.

Following Jesus is worth the cost.

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

29 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

God will be no one’s debtor.

Conclusion

What does it mean to be a disciple today?
- Be faithful and live your life for Christ every day.
- Share the good news of the gospel.
- Join in the harvest right where you live and work.