



The Sending of the Twelve in Matthew Pt 1: Called unto Him!

January 6, 2019

TEXT: MATTHEW 10:1-4

Thoughts on this Text:

1. Our LORD always leads by **Example**.
 - He asks His disciples to do what He did. We preached, taught, and healed, and sent them out immediately to do the same! (Lk 9:6; Mk 6:12-13)
 - He calls us to follow His example as well. (1 Pet 2:21; 1 Jn 2:6; 1 Cor 11:1)
 - He desires His followers to put His Words into action! Call to prayer was immediately followed, as best we can tell, by the command to go. In another place, Jesus said, "...blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." (Luke 11:28)

2. Our LORD's **highest** calling is "unto Him."
 - The word/phrase here means, "to call to oneself; to summon or invite."
 - The phrase not only indicates an administrative gathering of the Twelve after His recent ministry in certain cities, villages, and synagogues (Matt 9:35), but is a metaphor of His invitation to come and be with Him...to be close to Him...to be intimate with Him.
 - Indeed, the highest calling of every believer is to "be with Him!" (1 Cor 1:9; John 15:4-5)
 - This is not only true practically; it is also true eschatologically! It is "the whole point" of our LORD's coming. Amazingly He wants to be with us! (Php 3:12-14; 1 Pet 5:10-11; Jn 14:1-3)

3. Calling typically precedes Anointing; **time** comes before title!
 - Here we can observe the general order the LORD often uses to train and develop disciples:

Time (with them)——>Testing (thankfully He empowers us!)——>Title
 - Normatively, a disciple must **sit** before they are **sent**. *Time* with Jesus precedes the powerful use of both *talent* and *treasure*!
 - This is typically true for any great endeavor. One doesn't become a good husband due to a marriage license. One isn't immediately a good mother because a baby is born.
 - Indeed, one of the worst things that can happen is for talent to outrun character and gifts to outpace spiritual growth.
 - Godly character is developed through prayer, study of the Word, and faithful service. Indeed, the spiritual discipline of time "with Him" encourages humility, faithfulness, patience a biblical perspective.

THE NEED TO BE “WITH HIM”: CONSECRATION ENCOURAGEMENT! ;)

So many precious believers want to run the race and do exploits for God. So many (myself included) long for salvations and restoration and transformations of broken souls and revival. So many saints want to see our LORD “move” upon the hearts of men in a powerful way.

Here is the rub: our LORD, for His own sovereign purposes, has chosen to use people....sinful, fleshly, broken people to execute His purposes. But there is hope!

Do you remember the incident in Acts chapter 3 where Peter and John, while going to the temple, saw a lame man begging outside? Do you remember what Peter said to him? (Acts 3:6-10)

Well, this created quite a stir among the people! (Acts 3:11) As the people gathered to see what had happened, Peter preached another sermon, one just as powerful as the one he preached in Acts 2. (For home study, please read it in Acts 3:12-26).

However, as is often the case in the Kingdom, the enemies of Christ didn't take such powerful preaching laying down. Peter and John were arrested for preaching Jesus. When they were brought before the rulers, scribes and elders, Scripture says...

*"And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." Acts 4:7-13 (KJV)***

With Jesus! Despite the perception that these men were “unlearned” and “ignorant,” their being “with Jesus” made the difference! Being “with Jesus” overrode their upbringing, personalities, and fears! Being “called unto Jesus,” anointed and appointed for their mission produced astounding Kingdom fruit! We are here today because simple, sinful men were “with Jesus,” were empowered by Jesus, and were set in the apostolic office by Jesus. What might WE, those who are also “called unto Him,” do if we obeyed that call and lived “with Jesus?”

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Interestingly, when the Twelve returned from this mission, Jesus “slipped away quietly with them.” The King James says:

***Luke 9:10 (KJV)** And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.*

After they finished “preaching the gospel and healing everywhere” (Luke 9:6), Jesus still wanted time with them. I believe He wants that time with us as well.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Be **reminded** that God loves you. He desires to use you in some way for the upbuilding of His Kingdom.
2. Be **willing** to shut out the world and spend time with Him. If you are a believer you have been “called unto Him.” He wants to be close to you.
3. Be **determined** that if something has to suffer in 2019, it will not be your relationship with your LORD!
Recommit to times of prayer and fasting, personal and corporate worship, personal holiness, and service.

Amen!