

(34) The Twelve Sent Out (Mt. 9:35-11:1; Mk. 6:6-13; Lk. 9:1-6)

1. Another Galilean tour is once again summarized (Matt. 9:35 cf. 4:23) and at this time Jesus is able to expand the ministry (Matt. 9:36-38).
 - a. His ministry was focused on teaching (Matt. 9:35).
 - b. His ministry was oriented to the imminent Kingdom.
 - c. His ministry featured signs and wonders which complemented His focus and orientation.
 - d. His ministry was burdened by the shepherdless insufficiency of His generation and society (Matt. 9:36).
2. Jesus had large crowds that followed Him, but twelve of them were special gifts from God the Father, and these were The Twelve who went from Disciples to Apostles (Matt. 10:1-4).
3. The Twelve (See [GM16: Twelve Apostles Selected] for more information on The Twelve)
4. Jesus sent The Twelve out into Judah & Galilee with specific power and instructions (Matt. 10:1,5-42; Mk. 6:6-13; Lk. 6:1-6).
 - a. His commission authorized The Twelve to cast out unclean spirits (demons) and to heal every kind of disease and sickness (v.1), even to restore physical life to the physically dead (v.8).
 - b. His commission established their jurisdiction as the lost sheep of the house of Israel (vv.5,6).
 - c. His commission confirmed their message: the Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven (v.7).
 - d. His commission designated the grace financial policy they were to operate under (vv.9-15).
 - e. His commission included a warning of persecution and the need for shrewdness (vv.16-20).
5. The Lord's instructions for His Apostles not only addresses their immediate circumstances, but prophetically looks ahead to the Tribulation (Matt. 10:21-23).
 - a. Rather than a close-knit family, clan, and tribe atmosphere, the setting for this portion of text is fixed in a time of complete family disassociation (Matt. 10:21).
 - b. Universal hatred for the name of Jesus Christ leads to a time of persecution (Matt. 10:22a) wherein endurance "to the end" results in deliverance (Matt. 10:22b-23).
6. The principle of kosmos hatred is clearly established. Servants of the Lord will be hated because the Lord Himself is hated (Matt. 10:24,25).
7. Occupation with the Father and a faithful witness for the Son are the means by which believers may not have fear when facing the angelic conflict (Matt. 10:26-33).
8. The Lord described the family conflicts that can arise because of a believer's new spiritual family relationship (Matt. 10:34-39).
9. The Lord concludes His commissioning message to the Twelve (Matt. 10:40-42).
 - a. He instructed them that they represent Him, even as He represents the Father (v.40).
 - b. He taught them that the basis of eternal reward is our service to the Father and the Son through our treatment of His representatives (vv.41,42).
10. Having sent off The Twelve to their own ministries, Jesus resumed His own teaching and preaching (Matt. 11:1).