



(Leader's Notes)

JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE

1. **THE MESSAGE** Matthew 9:35

Answers to the blanks are as follows:

Words
Deeds

2. **THE MOTIVE** Matthew 9:36

Answers to the blanks are as follows:-

With compassion
God our Father
Hopelessness
Hunger
Pain
Sorrow

3. **THE COMMAND** Matthew 9:37-10:10

Answers to the blanks are as follows:-

Pray
Go
Preach
Give
Authority
Disciples
'A learner' or 'a trained one'
Apostles
'A sent one'

4. **THE COST** Matthew 10:17-36



What kind of opposition did Jesus say His followers may experience?

Opposition from men's actions Matthew 10:17-20

Jesus said they might even be arrested and persecuted for preaching the message of the Kingdom. In many countries today Christians are experiencing this, but what a wonderful assurance Jesus gives. The Holy Spirit will show us what to say.

Opposition from men's words

Matthew 10:24-25

The religious leaders accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebub, who was the prince of demons. This was blasphemy. Jesus warns His disciples that they too may be criticised and slandered. If this happens to us we should not be surprised as Jesus said, 'A student is not above his teacher.'

Opposition from our family

Matthew 10:34-36

Jesus came to bring peace in men's hearts, but He knew that it may bring conflict within the family. This is one of the most difficult things a person can experience. Making a choice between our family and Jesus is not easy, however if we are willing to make that choice we will 'find life'. V39

5. THE ENCOURAGEMENT

Matthew 10:26-31

Discuss

Why don't we need to be afraid of those who oppose us?

We don't need to be afraid!

Matthew 10:26-27

One day everything that others do or say to us will be exposed. As God's children we do not need to answer back, or retaliate, for God has said He will judge those who persecute us.

No-one can destroy our soul

Matthew 10:28

Even if we were killed we would go immediately to be with the Lord. Jesus said we should be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell, rather than man.

Nothing can happen to us unless the Father allows

Matthew 10:29-31

We belong to Him and He cares for us, so we do not need to live in fear.

6. THE REWARD

Matthew 10:40-42

Discuss

What are the rewards Jesus speaks of in Matthew 10:40-42?

What does this mean? Discuss.

When we welcome or help one of God's people, it is just as if we are receiving Jesus, or even God Himself! If we receive a prophet then we will receive a prophet's reward. Most of us would think it is an honour to do something for a great man of God. Notice what Jesus says at the end of these verses, "If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, because He is by disciple.." Who are the little ones? Aren't they the baby Christians? Aren't they also the children? If we are willing to humbly serve these ones because we love Jesus, we will be rewarded. Nothing we do for Him will be wasted.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." We are the workers. Jesus sends us out and He has given us authority. There may be opposition and there is a cost, but there will be a great reward.