

JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE1. THE MESSAGE Matthew 9:35

Jesus came to establish the Kingdom of God. This was the message He proclaimed from the beginning of His ministry. We are told in Matthew that He went through all the towns and villages announcing this message. It was a message given in _____ and _____. Read v35.

- Words - 'teaching ... preaching the Good News of the Kingdom'
(The Principles of the Kingdom in Matthew 5 to 7)
- Deeds - 'healing every disease and sickness'
(The Power of the Kingdom in Matthew 8-9)

This is a pattern we see throughout the Gospel of Matthew. This is the message we are to share – a message that comes in words and deeds.

2. THE MOTIVE Matthew 9:36

Jesus was only one man. He could only visit one place at a time, and yet the needs were great. As He travelled on foot from place to place, He saw sickness, poverty, hopelessness, and men and women far from God. How did He respond to that need? V36 _____

The word 'compassion' means deep pity, a deep inner emotion of concern. It is only used 12 times in the New Testament. Jesus speaks of the father having compassion in the story of the Prodigal Son. This shows us that it is a quality found in _____. It is also used of Jesus Himself. If we look at the verses where it is used we see that Jesus had compassion for:-

- The world's _____ Matthew 9:36
- The world's _____ Matthew 15:32
- The world's _____ Matthew 20:34
- The world's _____ Luke 7:13

He has compassion for your needs. However He wants us to have compassion for others too. The other time this word is used is in the story of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan had compassion for the man lying on the road. Just as compassion motivated Jesus in His ministry, we need compassion to meet the needs of the world around us.

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

How could Jesus meet all the needs? He had a plan! He would send His followers out to proclaim His Kingdom. This is what He commands them to do:-

_____ and _____. Matthew 9:38 and 10:5-6.

Notice that the same disciples who were told to pray, were also told to go! Often we think we are to pray for others to go, but Jesus commanded us to pray and go! The disciples went first to their own people, 'the lost sheep of Israel.' Matthew 10:5-6. It was only later that Jesus sent them into all the world. We are all to go to our own people first – our family, neighbours and friends. Jesus also said we were to _____ and _____. Matthew 10:7, 8

We are to give what we have received. Matthew 10:1. The disciples were given _____ to drive our evil spirits and heal every disease. We are given a list of names of these men who are well known to us. Notice that some are called by different names. These followers are called _____. The word 'disciple' means _____.

In Bible times a teacher would train his pupils to be like him in what he said and did. Jesus' disciples were training to become like Him. We are all called to be His disciples. In the very next verses these same men are called _____. Matthew 10:2. This means _____. Just as God sent Jesus, now He is sending these men out on His behalf. Jesus is now sending us!

4. THE COST Matthew 10:17-36

Jesus never promised it would be easy to follow Him. It may be costly, and there may be opposition.



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

Matthew 10:17-20
Matthew 10:24-25
Matthew 10:34-36

5. THE ENCOURAGEMENT Matthew 10:26-31

Although it may be difficult to follow Jesus, He encourages us not to be afraid.



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

Matthew 10:26-27
Matthew 10:28
Matthew 10:29-31

6. THE REWARD Matthew 10:40-42

The difficulties and opposition will not be wasted. There is a reward for service.



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

What does this mean? Discuss.

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.