

Laborers in His Harvest, Part 1

Matthew 10:1-15

Context – God’s compassionate answer to the _____ at the end of chapter 9:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. 13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles ... (Luke 6:12-13)

The Twelve:

Matthew 10:1-4

Why 12?

12 tribes ...

A new and better Moses ...

A restored Israel ...

His _____ was the enabling source of their mission.

What is biblical authority?

What is it for?

Their (Limited) Commission:

Matthew 10:5-15

1. Their initial mission *field* was _____.
“... go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”
2. Their primary missional *task* was _____.
“The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
3. Their missional *effect* was to _____ the Kingdom.
“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.”
4. Their missional *model* was _____.
“You received without paying; give without pay.”
5. Their missional *support* was _____.
“Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff ...”

Some important questions:

Are we also “disciples” in the sense of Peter, Andrew, James, John, et al.?

Are we still to seek out a “worthy house” we’d engage from one we should leave, “shaking the dust off our feet”?

How could *any* judgment be worse than that received by Sodom and Gomorrah? (*Gen. 19:24*)

Some takeaways for *us* from *their* assignment:

We, too, have His _____ and for the same ultimate purpose.

We don’t require _____ to do Gospel ministry.

We start with those we _____ and are _____ to.

We are responsible for our _____, not *our* _____.

And remember:

God is loving, but He is also _____. His compassion is tempered by _____. Those who hear and reject the Gospel are subject to the severest of _____.

A sense of _____ is essential ...