

Matthew 10:5-20

MARCHING ORDERS

In the Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7), Jesus delineated the principles for His followers that are to characterize their lives as “kingdom-life” disciples in our everyday world. This second discourse is known as the Mission Discourse. In this section Jesus develops what it means to be “mission-driven disciples.” Jesus’ disciples are not only to share the message but they are to LIVE the message of the Gospel to an alien and often hostile world.

In the military, as in the corporate world, or like on Mission Impossible, before any group takes on a task there is usually a briefing. That is what we will study today. We will get into the first half of Jesus' briefing to His disciples before He sends them out on their first training exercise without Him. This is the first taste they will have of what it will be like after the ascension. As with any good leader, Jesus tells them where they are going, what they will be doing, (the objective) and lists the possible obstacles in their way. What we all need to glean from this is that we have essentially the same marching orders. Therefore the mission, the objective, and the obstacles are the same for us today as they were for the Disciples back then.

The context of this discourse: Divided into three basic sections. Not making these distinctions can allow for some bad theology.

- **Verses 5-15 are missionary instructions for this particular historical context.**
- **Verses 16-42 are a preview of the disciple’ role as missionaries in the future.**
- **Verses 24-42 are principles of disciple-missionaries of every era.**

So as we pick up today's study, Jesus is giving this rag-tag bunch of unlikely candidates, (the dirty dozen) their marching orders.

WHERE TO GO

Mat 10:5 *These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.*

Mat 10:6 *But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

First of all Jesus tells them where not to go. We all have boundaries. Most of us don't like being told what to do. But why would Jesus not want the Gentiles, especially the Samaritans to hear the Gospel.

God has a plan.

Rom 1:16 **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

The Gospel was to be taught to the Jewish nation first. They were in charge of the oracles of God

Rom 3:1 **What advantage then has the Jew, or what *is* the profit of circumcision?**

Rom 3:2 **Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.**

So they had first "dibs", if you will.

God's overall plan of evangelization worked its way out in concentric circles from Jerusalem.

Act 1:8 **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Who were the Samaritans?

10 northern tribes conquered by Assyria. Samaria was the land northern tribes moved to. Israelites deported, replaced with Assyrians, who added many practices of Judaism to their pagan religion. Samaritans were gentile by birth, but had adopted many religious and cultural traits of the Jews. They were seen as a sort of an intermediate between the Jews and the Gentiles. There was also a large population of Gentiles in the area.

They would hear the Gospel, just not quite yet.

Who were the lost sheep of the House of Israel? They were those that Jesus saw as having been scattered and without a shepherd.

Once we are born again all the cultural, economic, and racial distinctions go away.

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

WHAT TO SAY, AND WHAT TO DO

Mat 10:7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Mat 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

The first thing they're to do is to preach. They are to say the same thing Jesus and John the Baptist said. The message still hasn't changed.

When introducing something new, especially something with extraordinary claims, you need extraordinary evidence. That is what verse 8 is about.

God wants to use us in extraordinary ways.

If you remember, back in verse 1 Jesus gave them "power", *exousia*, meaning authority.

This was given to them. They weren't to charge for the miraculous. They weren't to charge for the Word.

This brings us to the subject of provisions

PROVISIONS

Mat 10:9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts,

Mat 10:10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

No change of shoes or coat: No need to take provisions on this short tour, rely on the hospitality of those God places in your path. **God works through people!**

The disciples weren't to charge anything to keep their ministries going. Jesus wanted them to have to rely on Him as well as those to whom they were ministering for their support. This is the training ground. They would eventually be in situations and places where all they would have was God for their support. They might as well get used to it now.

God wants us to be comfortable in this position, depending on Him. We have to know that if He sends us He will provide for us. Where God guides He provides. And many or most of the time He works through people.

How then would they be taken care of?

For a worker is worthy of his food.

Jewish hospitality

The disciples had to learn to depend on God. God works supernaturally, but also works through people. **The People hearing the Word had to learn to support the ministry.**

1Ti 5:18 For the Scripture says, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN," and, "THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES."

Later the disciples would have totally different orders regarding their provisions.

Luk 22:35 And He said to them, "**When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?**" So they said, "Nothing."

Luk 22:36 Then He said to them, "**But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.**"

As they spread out in ever, larger circles of influence, they were to be able to support themselves if necessary so as not to be a burden on the people to whom they ministered. After Jesus' ascension they would be on the mission field permanently, not temporarily.

With WHOM TO STAY/ TO WHOM THEY WERE TO MINISTER

Mat 10:11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.

Mat 10:12 And when you go into a household, greet it.

Mat 10:13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Mat 10:14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

Mat 10:15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

As the disciples traveled, Jesus was well aware that not everyone they came into contact with would be willing to accept the message.

We are confronted with the same thing today. We have what everyone needs, but most don't want to hear it.

Once again, the disciples were traveling from town to town. As they came to a town they had to find a place to stay. They were to find someone accepting of the message. This person/ family would then house and feed them while they were in town.

This is what the word "worthy" means – those willing to accept the message.

Peace - a blessing

If they didn't accept the message then go somewhere else.

Shake off the dust - JW's; Jewish/ gentile context - defilement while walking in a pagan land. Sacred dirt. (Naaman)

To the Jews that didn't accept the message this would have been a sign that stuck with them.

“To whom much is given, much is required. There is a responsibility that comes with hearing the truth. We are bound to act upon it. Those that reject the Word will face the judgment.

THE WARNING

Mat 10:16 *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

Mat 10:17 *But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.*

Mat 10:18 *You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.*

Mat 10:19 *But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;*

Mat 10:20 *for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*

There is a change in tense here. It is more evident in the Greek. They will face much more of this specific type of resistance after Pentecost.

sheep – wolves ... Having just spoken of the judgment that would come to those that reject the Gospel, Jesus flips the metaphor of sheep and wolves. Until now, the disciples were to go to the sheep. At this point, because of resistance, the disciples become sheep that will be going out among wolves. Why this reversal? Because has changed tenses and subjects. He is no longer speaking of the short-term mission tour, but their long-term missionary journeys throughout the world, after His ascension.

serpents – doves; **Innocence without knowledge leads to naivety. We must know the heart of the serpent without acquiring the heart of the serpent.**

We must see the opportunity in opposition

Stephen, the first martyr.

Acts 6:9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen.

Act 6:10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

Act 6:11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

Act 6:12 And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon *him*, seized him, and brought *him* to the council.

Act 6:13 They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak

blasphemous words against this holy place and the law;

Stephen took the opportunity to preach. He paid with his life. Read Acts 7.

Jesus, when confronted by the Sadducees and Pharisees used the opportunity to teach.

At that point you have an opportunity and an audience.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO SAY

Verses 19 and 20 aren't a justification for a lack of study on the pastor's (or any other Christian's) part.

Some try to wing it. But this is a command for when they or anyone else ministering is brought up before people of power and are more than likely contending for their lives.

We are to study

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

These verses are a promise from God that the Holy Spirit will speak through us if and when we are in a situation such as Jesus or Stephen. Believe me, if I'm in that tight of a jam, I don't want to be the one speaking. God wants to do the talking so we don't mess it up.

IN CONCLUSION: (Please bring these up one at a time as they are mentioned)

- **All Christians are missionaries, wherever we may find ourselves.**

- **We are to teach AND LIVE the life of a disciple. More is caught than taught.**
- **We must be discerning as to who is willing to hear. A person can go from one category to another, so don't give up on them.**
- **We will all face opposition. But a true disciple will endure to the end. We will see that next week.**
- **Know the hardened heart, but don't have one. Stay humble and be compassionate. "But for the grace of God, go I!"**
- **Study to show yourself approved!**
- **Will you take up the mission? The baton has been handed to us.**

Things to consider in Home groups.

1. It is a team effort. Many people working together for a common goal.
2. Are you willing to go out into your own concentric circles? First at home, then branch out to the family, eventually the community with the same message?
3. Are you willing to support the ministry?
4. Let's not be defiled by the world. Keep your shoes clean. Be an example of a holy lifestyle.
5. See the opportunity in the opposition. Don't fear it.
6. Know that God is there to aid you in the mission. He's got our backs.

Jesus saw a need, a ministry and filled it.

He brought others alongside to help.

He empowered and encouraged them.

He depended on word of mouth and the power of the Spirit to get it done.

These are all things we can do.