

Matthew 10 God takes care of His laborers:

This week we are beginning our study of Matthew 10.

- Jesus told us at the end of Chapter 9 that He is looking for laborers for the harvest.
- And now He is telling us what we should expect once we become His laborer.
- We can think of chapter 10 as basically a job description for laborers of the kingdom.

And the first part we are looking at, Jesus is telling us He will take care of His laborers.

- **Matthew 6:33 But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. Amen!**

Many people get saved and they just start serving Jesus because they are so excited about what has taken place in their life. And I can definitely attest to that fact.

- When I first went to CCOB I just wanted to serve anyway I could to help the church out.
- And it's great to have that zeal and we should hope to never lose that zeal.

But what happens at times is that sometime down the road while we are serving Jesus we face a trial and we start to wonder what is going on.

- In our ignorance we probably thought we would serve Jesus forever without any trouble whatsoever. That is the view I had.

I can still remember the day when I had my first eye opening experience in serving Jesus.

- The first thing I ever did at CCOB was ushering. And I was serving Jesus and just loving it one day I heard one of the ushers complaining and then I heard that there were other ushers complaining.
- And I have to say it shocked me and totally caught me off guard.
- I never really thought those types of things would come into the church.
- I thought the world acted that way but I did not think Christians would act that way.
- It really took me some time to digest what happened.

Then as I started to grow in my walk with Jesus I soon realized that some of my friends were making fun of me, and even members of my own family.

- My friends whom I love with all my heart and still love with all my heart would call me up at 4 in the morning all drunk making fun of me.

Even though I did not know much about Christianity at that time God in His grace helped me through it.

But in this chapter Jesus is telling us what to expect once we start to follow Him and serve Him. Amen!

Maybe some of you here this morning are following Jesus and going through some trials and wondering what in the world is going on?

‡ Or maybe there are some of you here this morning that want to serve and labor for Jesus with everything you can and you are not sure what to do or what to expect.

‡ But Jesus is going to teach us about what it means to labor for Him.

Remember last week how I pointed out Jesus was mostly a teacher. Well this chapter gives us a good example of Jesus simply teaching us about the ministry.

V1-4 read-slow;

The first point I want us to see is that Jesus can use anybody as a laborer for the harvest. Amen!

- **And we will see this clearly by looking at the twelve Apostles.**

Jesus is giving us the list of the Twelve Apostles. If we remember in the last verse of Chapter 9 Jesus wants people to be sent out to labor in the harvest.

- And here we have the first sent out ones.
- The word Apostle means sent one!

If we notice in v1 that Jesus first calls them disciples and then in v2 He calls them Apostles.

- We must first be a disciple (a learner) before we can be an Apostle (sent one).

Before CCOB kicked me out, I mean sent me out, I was an intern or you could say disciple.

- I spent two years learning about the ministry before I went out.

And that is what Jesus is doing with these twelve disciples.

- They have spent some time learning from Jesus and now He is sending them out on their first serving experience.

Please understand we are not going to learn everything before we start to serve Jesus in some way.

- These disciples have much more to learn. And they will continue to learn the rest of their time with Jesus and even after He ascends to heaven.
- I learned a lot the two years I was on a staff but I can say that I have learned much more being out here for 6yrs.
- There are some things you can't learn in a classroom. You must experience them.

We can't as Christians be forever learning and not laboring! Amen!

- There needs to be a time of learning but then we need to start laboring in some way.
- And the learning and laboring will start to grow hand in hand as we move along.

Moody said; What makes the Dead Sea dead? Because it is all the time receiving, never giving out anything. Why is it that many Christians are cold? Because they are all the time receiving, never giving out anything.

Now as we look at this list of the Twelve Apostles we will see that Jesus can use anybody as a laborer for the Harvest.

Unfit for serving: one of the things that may get in our way for serving Jesus is that we may think that we are unfit for serving.

- We may think we really having nothing to offer Jesus.
- We may think I have no special gift or talents to offer to Jesus I am just your regular run of the mill person.

But the twelve that Jesus calls to serve Him are the same type of people as us.

This is the first list of the Apostles and I believe there are four lists in total.

- In each of the lists of Apostles Peter is always first and Judas is always last.
- And they are always broken up into three groups of 4.
- And each group of 4 is always the same just in differing order.
- Peter, Andrew, James, and John are always the first 4 listed but not always in the same order.
- The next four are Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew.
- The next four are James, Lebbaeus, Simon, and Judas.

Now as we look at this list we can see there is not one noted scholar or one religious leader.

- We don't have a ton of information on the Apostles but we have enough to see that Jesus will and can use anyone to serve Him.

In this list there are four fishermen, a tax-collector, a zealot, one is prejudice, and one is a doubter.

- And as we read the gospels the thing they did the most was argue about who would be the greatest in the kingdom.
- **John and James** actually got their mother to talk to Jesus and see if she could convince Him to let them sit on His right and His left when He comes into His kingdom.
- James and John also suffered from a lack of grace because when they went to a town that rejected Jesus they asked Him if they can call down fire on that town as Elijah did.

Peter is the one that stands out the most. We know that Peter suffered from foot, mouth disease. It seems like Peter was always putting his foot in His mouth.

- Jesus asked the disciples who do men say that I the Son of Man am? And Peter answers, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- And Jesus answers blessed are you Simon Bar Jonah.
- Then only a few minutes later when Jesus told them He was going to suffer.
- We are told that Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him. And this time Jesus called Peter, Satan.
- I know the bible says Peter did this but I just have a hard time picturing Peter taking Jesus aside and rebuking Him.

Mount of Transfiguration: when Jesus brought Peter, James and John to see Him transformed before them. We are told that Peter of course opened his mouth and said let us build three tabernacles here.

- He only said that because he did not know what to say but he just had to open his mouth.

Denied: And we also know that Peter is the one that denied Jesus three times!

Matthew: We also need to notice that Matthew is the only person listed that is associated with his work.

- There is no doubt Matthew did this so everyone would know what Jesus could do with those that are considered the losers of society.

There was nothing special about these men that Jesus called to be His Apostles. They were just twelve ordinary men!

But the great thing about seeing what these men were like with all their flaws was that we also see what these men became.

- All of these men were flawed in their character before Jesus called them.
- But not one of these men denied Jesus when they were faced with persecution.
- 10 out of the 11 Apostles all died a martyr's death and not one of them recanted on their faith.

Thomas the doubter went to India to preach the gospel and he was martyred there.

- Peter who denied the Lord would first watch his wife be killed and then he would be killed also.
- Peter had such a state of mind as this was happening that he actually encouraged his wife about heaven while she was being killed and then asked if he could be crucified upside down because he did not feel worthy to be killed the same way Jesus was.
Amen!

Now all of us here this morning that name the name of Christ are all here as a result of their faithfulness. Amen!

2nd Point: this brings us to our second point.

- The reason these ordinary men were changed and used by Jesus was not because of anything they had in and of themselves, but it was a result of what Jesus had given them.

Too often we look to ourselves and decide that Jesus could never use me.

- But that is where many of us make our biggest mistake.

In v1-2 please underline the words He, His, Him, He.

- Then in v5 underline the word Jesus.

We have to notice the emphasis is on Jesus.

- This is saying He calls, He gives the power, and then He sends out! Amen!

If you are here this morning and you are a disciple, you have to remember that you are His disciple and He will give you the power to serve and then He will send you out. Amen!

Exciting: That is what makes Christianity so exciting and encouraging that Jesus will use anyone to labor for His harvest. Amen!

Acts: in the book of Acts we find out what the religious leaders thought about these men that Jesus called to serve Him.

- **Acts 4:13** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John they perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled.
- And they realized they had been with Jesus.
- The key to their ministry was that they had been with Jesus!

Recent history: Even in our recent history this has been the same theme.

- One of the great things about the Methodist movement that John Wesley started was that he went outside the box of how the church did things.
- In those days you had to be ordained before you could preach.
- But he started using lay preachers to go around England and America to preach the gospel. And praise God that he did.
- While the Church of England died John took men who had a heart for Jesus and hit the streets.

Calvary movement: we can also look at the Calvary movement that we are a part of.

- The first churches that were started through Calvary were started by ex-drug addicts and hippies who had very little training in ministry.

The call: It's not what we can do but what God can do through us.

- God is just looking for some people who will listen for His call.
- God is looking for people who see what is going on in the world and they simply want to do something about it so they respond to the voice of God calling them to go.

Isaiah: Isaiah the prophet heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?

- And Isaiah said, Here am I! Send me.

V5-6 read-slow;

Now in this chapter Jesus is going to be giving some specific descriptions for serving and some general descriptions for serving.

Specific: Jesus is giving the disciples a specific ministry to start off with. He first has them going the lost sheep of Israel.

- Again it is sad to see that there were many shepherds in Israel at this time yet unfortunately Jesus describes the sheep as lost.

The church: Jesus has told us to go into the world and preach the gospel and make disciples but probably one of the biggest fields of harvest could be the church.

- There are people this morning that have actually gotten up early on a Sunday morning and are attending church just like we are but they are lost.
- And they will leave church today just as lost as they were when they woke up this morning.

One of my most regular prayers is for the churches on this Island. I pray that the Lord would capture the heart of those shepherds that are leading people astray.

Jesus is not saying never go to the Samaritans or Gentiles because that would be unbiblical; plus Jesus Himself has already ministered to Gentiles and Samaritans.

Jesus is merely giving a specified ministry for a specific season. And we will see in this context that Jesus is going to expand to this sermon to the entire world.

- Plus His last command is to go into the entire world and make disciples of all nations!

The Jews are God's chosen people and they have a preeminent and specific place in the plan of Redemption.

- This doesn't mean they are better than other people, they were simply chosen to be used instruments through which God would work.

Remember Jesus has come through the lineage of David and He is called the King of the Jews, the bible says He is going to sit on the Throne of David and He is called the Son of David.

✠ I think we sometimes forget that Jesus was a Jew.

Before Jesus sends the Apostles out into the world He is making sure that Jews have their chance to receive or reject the Messiah.

Paul: the apostle Paul who is no doubt the greatest theologian the church would ever have understood this point perfectly.

- **Romans 1:16** Paul says I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes; to the Jew first and also for the Greek.
- Paul who was specifically called to the Gentiles always made it a regular habit when he came into a town he would first go to the synagogue.

Us: As Christians we need to be very mindful of the Jews. After the resurrection and right before Jesus ascended into heaven He now tells the disciple to go through out the earth preaching the gospel.

- We are told by Paul in Romans that right now the Jews have blindness in part when it comes to the gospel.
- And their blindness is in part so we can receive the gospel.

Paul tells us we should have a heart for the Jews and we should make them jealous for God because of our relationship with Him.

- I hope to be used by God to lead many people to Jesus but I would love to have the experience of leading a Jew to Jesus.
- I have spoken with many Jews about Jesus and I am waiting for God to give the increase.

So let us all heed this specific ministry of bringing the gospel to the Jews. Amen!

Our neighborhood: Notice Jesus gave them power to only go in a specific region.

- And the point is not everyone is called to go to the other side of the globe.
- And since Jesus called and gave these apostles power for a small region, He will give us power and send us to our small region as well.
- We need the power of God in order to reach the people on our block. Amen!

We can't escape the fact that Jesus called these men first to their immediate towns and even when He gives the great commission they are told to start in Jerusalem.

- So I really want to encourage us to really give an effort to labor in our local region!
Amen!

V7-8 read-slow;

Jesus is now telling the Apostles a number of things they are to do as they go to the house of Israel.

- They are called to preach, and heal, and raise the dead and cast out demons, and they are not be motivated by money.

Now these things that Jesus is telling His apostles to do are still things we are called to do today.

Preach: I love the fact that the Holy Spirit put preaching first on the list.

- These men were called to go throughout the land and preach!! Amen!

Dave Guzick pointed out: There is no mention of them *preaching* in the synagogues, only being scourged in them (Matthew 10:17). This was a house-to-house, open field, street preaching ministry.

One of the things that is desperately needed in America right now is some open air preachers.

- Oh, that men would hear the call to preach!
- Not only men, but what about our youth.

When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost he quoted from the prophet Joel who said your sons and your daughters shall prophesy and your young men shall see visions.

✠ Charles Spurgeon started preaching out in the open air at the age of 16.

Right now there are many men in America that God has gifted and yet they never preach outside the four walls of a church. And it literally breaks my heart.

[Charles Haddon Spurgeon](#): "It would be very easy to prove that revivals of religion have usually been accompanied, if not caused, by a considerable amount of preaching out of doors, or in unusual places."

I praise God that it does seem like He is stirring up the spirit of men to go out and open air preach.

Other things: Now as these men go out and preach they are also going to minister by healings and dealing with demonic activity.

- These are things that are meant to show that God cares about people who are suffering.
- Even though many Jews will reject Jesus and His apostles God still desires to minister to them.
- Jesus heals 10 lepers and how many come back? 1
- God is compassionate and even ministers to those that reject Him or even try to use Him.

The Apostles are definitely given a great measure of power that is not normally given to people.

- These powers were given to them in this way to confirm they were Apostles and to confirm the message they were preaching

These men are going to go through out land preaching the kingdom of heaven is at hand and then they will do these things in order to confirm their message.

- In **2nd Corinthians 12** Paul specifies that there are signs of an Apostle.
- In other words they were in a special category.

Please understand: that no one today has the type of power and authority that the Apostles had. But that does not mean that power is still not available but in different measures.

- At times God does work through His people to do some of these things mentioned here.

James in his letter is going to tell us to bring those who are sick to the Elders and let them pray and anoint them with oil that they may be healed.

- He also says we can pray like Elijah because we are the same nature as he was.

For instance: if I asked everyone here if you think you could heal a leper what might you say? The answer is yes!

- If any of us had the heart to heal a leper we could do it today.
- The healing process may be a little different but it is a healing nonetheless.
- All we need to do is call American Leprosy mission and give them money so they could help heal those with Leprosy!

We may say well that is not the same way the Apostles did it, and that's true.

- But do we really think there won't be power from a check that is given to heal a child from leprosy in the name of Jesus?
- I think there will be! Whether it is a check or a prayer healing has come in the name of Jesus!

Raise the dead: each every one of can also go around each and every day and try and raise people from the dead.

- The bible says that those who have not received Jesus as their Lord and Savior are dead in their trespasses and sins.
- And we can go around and preach the gospel that is able to raise them from the dead and give them life. Amen!
- I praise God that someone came and shared the gospel with me, because I was once dead but now I am alive!

We can sit around and debate if God will truly do these things that He did for the Apostles or we can simply go out and find those that are sick and hurting and are demon possessed and pray for them and leave the results up to God. Amen!

V8-10 read-slow;

In v8-15 Jesus is going to speak about provision in three different ways.

- The first is we shouldn't be greedy.
- Second we should walk by faith.
- Third we should be content with what we receive.

Jesus is telling us here He will supply our provision for the ministry!

In v1-2 Jesus said He will supply their spiritual power for ministry and here He is saying He will supply their physical needs for the ministry.

Serving Jesus really is a walk of faith. But faith presents us with opportunity to see God provide.

- These Apostles are going to see God do some miraculous healings and they are going to see Him provide for their food and shelter.

Ministry is not about the money!

One of the things that has truly given Christianity a bad wrap are the false shepherds that are in the ministry to make money!

- And its even unfortunate that when you hear Catholic people talk about their own church being about the money.

The last thing in the world the church should be known for is money.

- We serve the Creator and Sustainer of the universe and He is by no means broke.
- We really do our God a disservice when we paint the picture that He is broke.

When God sent the children of Israel into the promise land He told them they were to lend not borrow!

- God wanted these nations to know who the true God is!

These Apostles have been freely given great power by God that is the point of verses 1-2.

- So how can they go around charging for something they were freely given.
- That would be blaspheme in the highest degree charging people for something you were freely given by God to do!

Clark: “What a scandal is it for a man to traffic with gifts which he pretends at least, to have received from the Holy Ghost, of which he is not the master, but the dispenser. He who preaches to get a *living*, or to make a *fortune*, is guilty of the most infamous *sacrilege*.”

Acts: in the book of Acts we have the first instance of God stepping in administering quick justice to Ananias and Sapphira.

- And God did this because of the way they misrepresented their giving.

Timothy and Titus: when Paul gives his instruction to Timothy and Titus for Pastors and Elders, he says they are not to be greedy for money.

Raul Ries: I remember when I first started listening to Christian radio I heard Raul Ries say that he never charges anyone if they ask him to come and speak.

- At the time I didn't really know it was biblical what he was saying, but it just sounded right. Amen!

V9-10 walk by faith: We see in v9-10 that Jesus wants His workers to walk by faith!

Jesus is telling us minimal supply equals maximum faith.

- It is a great witness to people when they see how God provides for His own.

At work: I am always telling the guys at work how God provides for us.

Jesus tells them take empty wallets and not two tunics.

- Having two tunics would be very important if you should have to stay outside.
- So by Jesus telling them not to take two tunics He is saying He would supply a place for them to sleep at night!
- In other words Jesus is speaking about daily provision for the ministry!

Jesus wants His laborers to be in a place where they are totally dependent upon Him!
Amen!

- Now to our flesh that is very scary, but it's reality where else would we want to be than trusting God to provide for us.

The reason we struggle with this is because we want to be comfortable.

- God does provide for us but sometimes He stretches us.

In v10 Jesus has established a principle that a worker is worthy of his food.

- Jesus wants the Apostles to trust in Him but it is proper for the people to support the workers of the Lord.
- In other words God provides for His workers through the people they are serving.

That is how the body of Christ works together.

- The workers are to pour out their life for those they are serving and the ones they are serving are pour out their life in support of the one that is working for them.

In other word for those of you who are here this morning and consider this your home church which means you believe in what we are doing here.

- You are called to be supporting this work through your tithes and offerings.
- God wants to provide through the body the work that is being done here.

But we do believe that it is God who does the stirring in the hearts for the people to give.

V11-14 read-slow;

Jesus is speaking about Contentment here;

- The bible says Godliness with contentment is great gain!

Now as the Apostles would go around laboring for the Lord and they come to a city they were to look for a place to stay as they ministered there.

Worthy: The word worthy really has to do with those people who are willing to receive the message that they are preaching.

- And also the phrase **stay there to you go out** implies they are to stay in that house and not look for a more comfortable place to stay.
- In other words be content!

Example: Lets say a preacher comes to Staten Island for the first time and they preach and I hear the message and like it and then ask them to stay with my family and I.

✠ I would be considered worthy and he would stay with us.

- So the preacher spends a couple of days with me in our over crowded 2 bedroom apartment.
- But then he starts preaching to the folks at Todt Hill and one of them is willing to take him in.

Jesus is saying if you are His worker you are to stay with family in that 2 bedroom apartment and don't relocate to Todt Hill.

Again Jesus wants His laborers to be satisfied with the provision they receive.

- If you are working for the Lord for the right reasons you will be content with what ever He supplies you with! Amen!

I get embarrassed when I sometimes get wind of what some Pastor get paid for serving Jesus. I am amazed that they feel that comfortable taking that much from serving Jesus.

John Wesley: when John would travel around England he did not rent a room at times but he merely rented a spot on a bed.

George Whitfield the great evangelist was so broke that after he got married he had to borrow curtains to put in his house.

- How many ministers would do that today?

Mission trips; I have been on a number of mission trips and I have been on what they call soft mission trips. I have gone to Puerto Rico, Italy, and Scotland.

- When we were in Italy we were staying in the old house that really had no heat and it was the beginning of winter time.
- And it was so cold that once you got into bed you did not even think about getting out from under those blankets until it was morning.
- When I was in Scotland we actually stayed in the church at night and the neighborhood was so bad that were not allowed to open the doors after the sun went down.
- We would here people on the roof of the church and banging on the side of the church.

But praise God we had a place to stay and that is the attitude the Apostles are to have and also everyone that labors for Jesus!

Let your peace be upon it: when the Apostles find a house that is willing to accept them He says let your peace come upon that house.

- The idea is that the receptive people were to be ministered to in the fullest.
- In other words the Apostles are to greatly invest in these people while they are in that city.
- The houses that would be willing to take in the Apostles deserved to receive God's blessing upon their home.

I can say that this really does mean something to those who really love Jesus.

- When I was in these other places ministering for the Lord it meant so much to the people that we would stay with them and minister to them.
- Its like they were so thankful for you to be there that they simply couldn't do enough for you.

Shake the dust of your feet: this idea of shake the dust of your feet is a sign of judgment.

Day of Judgment: I know it is not a popular subject but Jesus is telling us here there is a Day of Judgment.

- People will be judged for the life they have lived.
- People think their good works are going to save them , but what people need to understand that good works have nothing to do with justice.

If I stand before a judge and say yes judge I killed that person but I am nice to other people.

When the Jews would travel around and happen to come onto Gentile soil as soon as they would get off of that soil they would shake the dust off their feet as a sign of judgment against the gentiles.

- But now Jesus is telling the Apostles to do this to the cities and houses of the Jews.
- This is a powerful sign of judgment Jesus is declaring against the Jews.

Jesus even goes a step further by declaring that it would be tolerable for the sinful Gentile nations of Sodom and Gomorrah than for the Jews.

These Jewish houses and cities are going to be judged more severely because they have been exposed to more light than other cities.

- The more light people are exposed to the more responsible they are.

Conclusion:

In the first part of this teaching Jesus wants us to understand that He will supply us with everything we need when we labor for Him.

- He wants to supply our Spiritual power and He wants to supply our physical needs.
- When we labor for Jesus we will not lack in any area. Amen!

We need to leave here this morning knowing that if we answer the call of Jesus to labor for Him He will most definitely supply us with everything we need. Amen.

✠ It may not be comfortable at times but He will supply!

Philippians: In the book of Philippians Paul gives us two more verse to reassure this.

- Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- Philippians 4:20 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Ephesians: in the book of Ephesians Paul gives us another verse to truly solidify what God can do through us.

- Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.
- According to the power of the Holy Spirit that works in us we are able to do more than we ever imagined possible.

Can you and I only imagine what God may do with us and through us? I can.

- And I am looking forward to what He is going to do.

But as Jesus sent out the Apostles with minimal provision in order to trust Him; are we going to trust Him?

Remember these Apostles eventually left everything to follow and trust Jesus and we here this morning are evidence of the faithfulness of God. Amen!

Let's pray!