

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew Part 1

WEEK 11 - JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE APOSTLES OVERVIEW

We began our Matthew series at the end of the story, with Jesus' "Great Commission." In this message, we will explore Jesus' *first* "commission" or sending, this time of just his twelve disciples. In Jesus' words to his novice followers, he bestows on them his own authority to heal and cast out demons and prepares them for the challenges and blessings they will experience as they go. Although Jesus' words are given to his first disciples, it is clear Matthew records them for the benefit of all Christ-followers across time. Even today we will find in the words of our rabbi an invitation to trust him and go boldly into our broken world in his name.

"Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!"

Matthew 10:7-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Matthew 10:1, 5-8](#). What do you think Jesus meant when he instructed the disciples to "give as freely as you have received"?
2. Read [Matthew 10:9-15](#).
 - a. How will you find the worthy people God prepares for you? (see [Acts 16:12-15](#))
 - b. What are some practical ways we can sharpen our awareness of God preparing the way?
3. Read [Matthew 10:16-20](#).
 - a. Describe the symbolism of the animals Jesus mentions.
 - b. In what ways have you experienced God's power going before you or working in you?
4. Read [Matthew 10:21-42](#). Why does Jesus give so many warnings to the disciples?
5. What does 'representing Christ wherever you go' look like in someone's life?
6. How does it make you feel to know that YOU represent Christ wherever you go - his authority, message, and kingdom?
7. How can you have hope when it seems like your contributions to the kingdom are tiny? (see [Zechariah 4:10](#))

RESOURCES

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