

The King Calls and Commissions—Matthew 10:1-15

- **Intro**
 - Wives sending husbands to the store with strict instructions—how well does that go?!
 - Ever tried putting a piece of IKEA furniture together with no manual? How did that go?!
- **The King Calls his People (1-4)**
 - **“Called”**= military word for commander summoning soldiers for a mission
 - God’s sovereignty CALLS his people
 - Eph 1:1 — Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.
 - **God’s CALLING, not our CREDENTIALS, determines our usefulness!**
 - **On paper, this is definitively NOT an attractive bunch!** Jesus did NOT go raid Duke Medical School for this recruitment! More like the Little Rascals!
 - Peter/Andrew—fishermen; James/John—fishermen; Matthew—despicable tax collector; Phillip—name means “lover of horses”; Bartholomew—came from Cana; probably Nathaniel from John 1; Thomas—called “doubting Thomas” (alot like us, eh!); James Son of Alphaeus—could have been Matthew’s brother; Thaddaeus—probably; Jude (may have written the book); Simon the Cananaean—probably a nationalist and politician; Judas Iscariot—betrayor
 - **Luke 10**—first convert to become a missionary = a Samaritan WOMAN!
 - **This group looks a lot like us!! Normal. Sinful. Limited. Unimpressive. CALLED!**
 - **1 Corinthians 1**—“CALLING” matters because our lives and mission are about WORSHIP!
 - God calls and equips the weak and inadequate in order that BOASTING my flee and WORSHIP might flourish!! “Can you believe he chose even ME!?”
- **The King Confers His Authority to His People (1b)**
 - **Not only does he GRACIOUSLY call but he POWERFULLY equips.**
 - Hope = we have been called AND have been equipped.
 - No Hope = we’re here till it’s hard and we are laboring in our own strength! When it gets hard (rest of chapter 10), God’s sovereign calling and powerful equipping KEEP US GOING!
 - **Example—Titus in Crete—go do ministry in a city with lying, lazy, gluttonous, evil beasts!**
 - Unbelievable GRACE—NOBODY AMONG US would ever give this kind of authority to people like us! Jesus does not hoard his authority but GIVES IT to his people for his glory!
- **The King Commissions His People (5-15)**
 - **The rest of chapter 10** = the details and specifics of the mission Jesus is calling us to! Tackle over several weeks.
 - **Go in Community (v.5)**
 - Jesus sends out the 12 together here; sends out 72 in pairs in Luke 10; Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13.
 - The pattern of the N.T. is that mission of God happens inside of PARTNERSHIP within the people of God.
 - **Community Groups, Mission Groups (interests/affinities), neighborhood prayerwalks/block parties, Sunday afternoon evangelism, Women’s evangelism training/lab**
 - Community = encouragement, prayer, accountability, support, development
 - **Go Where the King Sends (5b-6)**
 - **“Go nowhere among Gentiles...”**—not at all about the specifics, it’s about the King giving instructions!
 - We don’t need to “be called” to the mission field! That has already happened (v.1; 2 Corinthians 5:18). We must PRAY for where to go (v.38) and then FOLLOW!
 - **JD Greear—“Calling’ is not a special privilege for a sacred few of you. When you accepted the call to follow Jesus, you accepted the call to missions. The question is no longer if you are called; only where and how.”**
 - **The Mission Field is a place of GREAT NEED!**

- We go to the diseased, dead, despised and demon-possessed
 - Whether your workplace, a church plant, an unchurched city or a unreached people group, the MISSION FIELD IS IN GREAT NEED!
 - The great need reminds us we NEED AND HAVE a Great King!
 - PRAY—LORD WHERE IS THE FIELD YOU ARE SENDING ME TO!?
 - **Go speaking and showing the gospel of the Kingdom (v.7-8)**
 - Jesus has given clear instructions to us
 - **“as you go”**—Jesus is creating a people who POSSESS A MISSIONARY DNA not merely PARTICIPATE IN MISSION PROGRAMS.
 - **As we go, we go DECLARING with our mouths and DEMONSTRATING with our hands!**
 - **Go in Dependence on the King (9-10)**
 - **The DEEP need we go to drives us to great DEPENDENCE on the king who sends**
 - **“give without pay...acquire no gold or silver...”**
 - Hudson Taylor—I am taking my children with me and i notice that it is not difficult for me to remember that the little ones need breakfast in the morning, dinner at midday, and something before they go to bed at night. Indeed, I could not forget it. And I find it impossible to suppose that our heavenly Father is less tender or mindful than I. Our Father is a very experienced One .He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for forty years. We do not expect he will send 3 million missionaries to China, but if he did, he would have ample means to sustain them all. Let us see that we keep God before our eyes, that we walk in His ways and seek to please and glorify him in everything, great and small. Depend upon it, God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.
 - **God’s sovereignty determines fruit from the field (11-15)**
 - Some houses are worthy...some not. Some receive, some don’t! God in control!
 - The fruit is HIS and the fruit is SURE—he will have ALL that is his from all the world!
 - **Our obedience determines faithfulness in the field (11-15)**
 - God has graciously LIBERATED us from the burden of results
 - God has graciously COMMISSIONED us with the command to go and speak and bless!
 - **May we not be hypocrites or hypothesizers but wholehearted followers of Jesus to make much of our GREAT SAVIOR in a field of GREAT NEED!**
 - Obedience, not results, is the measure of faithfulness!
 - **Billy Graham—preaches the gospel and hundreds of thousands repent and believe**
 - **William Carey—goes to India (we go this week) and spends 7 years laboring with ZERO people repenting and believing! You know who doesn’t think that was a failure, Krishna Pal, the first convert who is in the presence of Christ right now, and the 28 million other believers across India!!**
- **Closing:**
 - **God is a sending God and, ultimately, we GO because he CAME!**
 - Unbeliever—in all of this, see God’s heart to come and to rescue; to save and redeem; to deliver and set free!
 - **“more bearable on the day of judgement...”**—More than eyes, ears, stomachs, ailments, disease, the mission of Jesus is aimed at HEARTS! More than we need healing or food we need RESCUE!