



MATTHEW

MESSIANIC MISSION - COMMISSIONING OF THE DISCIPLES/APOSTLES

Matthew 10

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CONTEXT

- Identity of Jesus – Son of Abraham, Son of King David, Son of God, Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews (Matthew 1-3)
- Core Message of Jesus – “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” (Matthew 4:17)
- Discipleship Standards – Matthew 5-7
- Authority of Jesus – Matthew 8-9
- Jesus now sends His disciples/apostles forth into a Mission that still has deep ramifications for His followers today! (Matthew 10)

CALLING/COMMISSIONING OF THE 12

Matthew, Mark, and Luke mention the 12 Disciples. (John mentions “the Twelve” in John 6:67). There are 3 groups of 4 in each list. Simon Peter is always mentioned first. Philip and James of Alphaeus are always listed at the beginning of the other 2 groups. Judas Iscariot is always listed last.

- The calling of disciples signals the Messianic identity and role of Jesus. He bestows “power” or “authority” upon them.
- The number 12 is significant for Israel – salvation history.
- Matthew connects the calling of the disciples with their commissioning as apostles.

THE INITIAL MISSION TO ISRAEL: Matthew 10:5-15

Jesus is the Jewish Messiah. His initial message is to the people of God who have lived in the Old Covenant epoch. This is a theological priority that is connected to salvation history. The Apostle Paul will mention this in Romans 1:16 – the Gospel is for the Jew first, then the Gentiles.

WORLDWIDE MISSION: Matthew 10:16-23

The message of the Kingdom of God, the Gospel, is for the whole world. The Apostles would be commissioned at the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew to lead the effort to make disciples of all the peoples (nations) of the world. We all remain engaged in this commission!

CHARACTERISTICS OF A DISCIPLE OF JESUS: Matthew 10:24-42

All disciples of Jesus Christ are sent! Jesus calls His followers to carry forth His message to their generation. We are to surrender to His Lordship, remain true to Him regardless of the cost, and serve Him to the end of our days.