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Matthew 10

Matthew 10:1

Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every sickness.

† Jesus transfers His authority to the twelve, marking the beginning of their apostolic mission. This authority confirmed the kingdom was present.

† Josephus describes how Jewish exorcists attempted cures (Antiquities 8.45), but Jesus gives real power to His disciples.

† To us today, it shows the kingdom was established with divine authority, not human tradition.

Matthew 10:2-4

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who also betrayed Him.

† The list includes fishermen, a tax collector, and even a zealot. The kingdom was not built on worldly prestige but on common men called by Christ.

† The Mishnah placed great importance on respected lineage for teachers (Avot 2:8), but Jesus chose the unlikely.

† To us today, it shows God works through ordinary people empowered by His Spirit.

Matthew 10:5-6

These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, "Do not go on a road to Gentiles, and do not enter a city of Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

† The mission begins with Israel, fulfilling covenant promises. Judgment would fall on Israel first before the gospel spread to the nations.

† Paul later echoes this principle: "To the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

† To us today, it shows God's plan was ordered, first covenant Israel, then all nations.

Matthew 10:7-8

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with leprosy, cast out demons; freely you received, freely give."

† The apostles were to declare the kingdom present. Their miracles proved its reality.

† Justin Martyr said miracles confirmed prophecy fulfillment in Christ (Dialogue with Trypho 82).

† To us today, it proves the kingdom was not postponed but manifested in their generation.

Matthew 10:9-10

"Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is deserving of his support."

† They were to depend on God's provision through those who received their message.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls describe strict communal dependence (1QS 6.2), but Jesus calls for reliance on hospitality.

† To us today, it shows ministry is about trust in God, not wealth.

Matthew 10:11-15

"And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay there until you leave that city. As you enter the house, give it your greeting. If the house is worthy, see that your blessing of peace comes upon it. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. And whoever does not receive

you, nor listen to your words, as you leave that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment, than for that city."

† Rejecting the apostles meant rejecting Christ. Judgment language ties directly to AD 70 destruction.

† Josephus describes cities destroyed for rebellion against God (Wars 4.323).

† To us today, it shows rejecting the gospel brings covenant judgment.

Matthew 10:16-18

"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves. But be on guard against people, for they will hand you over to the courts and flog you in their synagogues; and you will even be brought before governors and kings on My account, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles."

† Persecution was guaranteed. Synagogues and Roman courts would both oppose them.

† Tacitus confirms Christians were brought before governors and accused for their faith (Annals 15.44).

† To us today, it shows persecution is part of discipleship, yet it serves as testimony.

Matthew 10:19-20

"But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you at that time. For it is not you who are speaking, but it is the Spirit of your Father who is speaking in you."

† The Spirit would give them words in trials, proving God's presence with them.

† To us today, it shows God equips His people in times of opposition.

Matthew 10:21-22

"Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."

† Family division marked the covenant crisis. Loyalty to Christ split households.

† The Mishnah notes how civil strife tore families in the last days of Jerusalem (Sotah 9:15).

† To us today, it shows the cost of discipleship, but also the promise of endurance.

Matthew 10:23

"But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes."

† This verse proves the coming of the Son of Man was imminent, fulfilled in the judgment on Israel in AD 70.

† Eusebius saw this prophecy fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem (Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† To us today, it proves Christ's word was fulfilled exactly when He promised.

Matthew 10:24-25

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his

master. It is enough for the disciple that he may become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they insult the members of his household!"

† If Jesus faced slander and rejection, His disciples would face the same.

† To us today, it shows persecution unites us with Christ.

Matthew 10:26-28

"So do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

† Courage comes from God's final authority. Man's threats cannot overturn God's power.

† To us today, it proves eternal truth outweighs earthly threats.

Matthew 10:29-31

"Are two sparrows not sold for a penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not fear; you are more valuable than a great number of sparrows."

† God's providence covers all creation. Believers are precious in His sight.

† To us today, it shows God's intimate care for His people.

Matthew 10:32-33

"Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But

whoever denies Me before people, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven."

† Confession of Christ is the dividing line of salvation.

† To us today, it proves that loyalty to Christ determines our standing before God.

Matthew 10:34-36

"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a person's enemies will be the members of his household."

† Christ's coming divided Israel. The sword represents covenant judgment and division.

† Josephus records family betrayal during the Jewish War (Wars 6.201).

† To us today, it shows discipleship may cause conflict, but Christ brings true peace through fulfillment.

Matthew 10:37-39

"The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And the one who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. The one who has found his life will lose it, and the one who has lost his life on My account will find it."

† Loyalty to Christ is supreme. The cross symbolized Roman execution, discipleship requires total sacrifice.

† Tacitus described Rome's use of crucifixion to terrify rebels (Histories 4.11). Jesus calls His followers to embrace that cost.

† To us today, it shows that true life comes only by surrender to Christ.

Matthew 10:40-42

"The one who receives you receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. The one who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and the one who receives a righteous person in the name of a righteous person shall receive a righteous person's reward. And whoever gives one of these little ones just a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple, truly I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

† Receiving the apostles is equal to receiving Christ. Even the smallest act of kindness to His disciples is remembered.

† To us today, it shows that serving Christ's people is serving Christ Himself.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 8.45; 13.288; Wars 4.323; 6.201

† Mishnah, Avot 2:8; Sotah 9:15

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44; Histories 4.11

† Dead Sea Scrolls: 1QS 6.2

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 82

† Origen, On Prayer 24

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

† Philo, On the Virtues 27

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