



# **MATTHEW**

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

## **The King and His men!**

**Matthew 10:1-31**

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Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# **The King and His men!**

## ***Matthew 10:1-31***

### **Opening Comments**

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 10**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- If you are a human here this morning, you were created by God.
- Regardless of the human instruments who were involved, God chose to create you.
- He did that with His sovereign creative power.
- That is true of all humans who have ever lived.
- God created you and He did it because He wanted to.
- He also did it so that you could bear His image out into the world.
- His image is seen in us as we love Him and are loved by Him.
- We were all created to be His children. Unfortunately, sin came into the world and separated us from His love and grace.
- To fix that, God sent Jesus to make a way for anyone who will believe to be redeemed from our fallen state and returned to intimate fellowship with God.
- Last week, we saw God's heart for humanity.
- **Matthew 9:36-38**
- This morning Jesus will choose and send out laborers.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us God's heart for the lost.
- **Pray**

### **Teaching**

- **The King and His men!**
- This chapter begins with the calling of the Twelve.
- They were first called disciples and then apostles/ministers of the gospel.
- All believers are called to be disciples, but not all disciples are called to be ministers.
- **Matthew 10:1-4**
- Jesus calls the Twelve and gives them power.

- There are two Greek words that can be translated into the English word power.
- One of them speaks of the miraculous power of God.
- The other one speaks of authority. Interestingly, that is the one that is used here.
- There is obviously some overlap because the authority they are given results in miracles like casting out demons and raising the dead.
- Jesus chooses His closest companions, including the betrayer Judas.
- He then gives them all instructions.
- **Matthew 10:5-7**
- I can't help but wonder about Judas Iscariot. He is given the same authority as the other eleven.
- He sees all the miracles and sees people getting saved by the hundreds, maybe thousands.
- He spends three years with Jesus and experiences the love of God in a way very few people ever have.
- And still, He betrays Jesus.
- Some people, no matter how much of God's grace they experience, just won't bow their knee to Christ.
- If Judas didn't do it, having experienced God in the flesh, we shouldn't be surprised if others don't.
- In this first missionary journey, Jesus tells them to concentrate their efforts on the people of Israel.
- It was God's will from the very beginning to bring salvation through the Jews.
- Jesus gives them the same message to preach that He began His public ministry with, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
- And then to prove that their message was legitimate, He told them to use the power He had given them.
- **Matthew 10:8**
- One of the traits that should be obvious in the life of a true Christ-follower is generosity.
- Everything you have came from God, and some of what He gave you is not meant for you but to be shared with others.

- Jesus then tells them how to behave as they travel.
- **Matthew 10:9-13**
- This probably sounds strange to us.
- First, don't take any money or pack extra clothes.
- It was common in those times for itinerant rabbis to travel around teaching about God and His Word.
- The culture was such that the rabbi could expect to be fed and housed.
- This was to teach them to trust in God's providential care.
- Often new believers are zealous to share Christ.
- They might think that everyone needs to hear about Jesus, which they do, and once they hear, they will believe.
- Unfortunately, that is not reality and Jesus prepares His disciples for that.
- **Matthew 10:14**
- Even the first apostles, ordained by Christ Himself and given the power to work miracles, were not 100% effective at sharing the gospel.
- Jesus told them to expect that some would reject the message, even after seeing miracles.
- 'shake off the dust' was a practice of the Jews upon returning from Gentile places.
- They believed that walking in Gentile places made them unclean or defiled.
- By shaking the dust from their feet, they were releasing themselves from the defilement.
- That Jesus would use this common practice shows how important receiving the gospel is.
- To reject the gospel, makes a Jew as defiled as a Gentile.
- It would make them filthy in God's sight and totally unworthy of the blessings God promised to Abraham and his descendants.
- He then adds to the warning.
- **Matthew 10:15**
- God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness.

- Jesus is saying that rejecting the gospel of salvation is worse than the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - ‘day of judgment’ – this will not be a time of determining guilt or innocence.
  - Everyone is guilty because everyone has sinned (**Romans 3:23**).  
...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
  - Jesus also said that He did not come to condemn anyone because they were already condemned (**John 3:18**).
- He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**
- This is the day that the verdict is read, and the sentence is passed.
  - Jesus then warns them to be careful.
  - **Matthew 10:16-23**
  - Sharing the gospel with the lost is not without risk.
  - It is unlikely that anyone will stone you or crucify you today if you share the gospel with them.
  - But there certainly may be consequences.
  - In verse 16 Jesus tells them to be wise and harmless.
  - “Harmless” can also be translated as pure or innocent.
  - We must use wisdom when we share Jesus with the lost.
  - The gospel is the ultimate expression of God’s love for mankind.
  - It is a gift of immeasurable and eternal value.
  - I rejected that gift for a long time.
  - Now, I can’t imagine why no one wouldn’t want it.
  - They need it, just as each of us did.
  - Something keeps most Christians from sharing the gospel with others – fear, pride, or supposed inadequacies.
  - The men Jesus called to go out and preach the gospel may have had some of those same reservations.
  - **Matthew 10:24-27**
  - Beelzebub was a pagan deity – either the god of flies or the god of dung.
  - I don’t even want to imagine how they would worship a god of dung.

- It is also associated with Satan, which we will see in a couple of chapters.
- Don't be afraid of what others might think or say – God knows it all and will deal with it at the right time.
- **Matthew 10:28-31**
- Don't be afraid of what might happen if you share Jesus with someone.
- As Jesus was sending out the Twelve, the possibility of being martyred was high.
- We have nothing to fear from man or the governments of men.
- You are so well-known to God that He knows every hair on your head.
- The question we all need to answer is, 'Do we trust God enough to go where He sends us and do what He tells us to do?'
- Not everyone is called to minister like the apostles were called to serve God.
- But God has called us all to do something for Him.
- Last week, we read that Jesus calls us all to pray to God the Father to send out laborers into the harvest field.
- We can pray for the lost people we know – by name!
- Before you speak to someone who is far from God, ask God to give you just the right words that draw them a little closer to Jesus.
- Repent of any fear, or doubt, or pride that might stand in the way of sharing the gospel.
- It doesn't hurt to be prepared to share Jesus with others, but it isn't necessary.
- Your testimony – what Jesus did for you – is all you need to know.
- You tell them about the Jesus you love and who loves you back.
- If they ask you questions you can't answer, humbly tell them you don't know everything about God or His Word, but you will get back to them with an answer.
- Brothers and sisters, the fields are ripe for harvest.
- There are more lost people on earth than at any time in human history.
- They all need to hear about Jesus.

- Pray – ask God to send out more laborers.
- Pray – ask God how you can help send out more laborers.
- Pray – ask God how you might encourage those who are out in the harvest fields to continue being faithful to the work.
- Pray – ask God to give you His heart for the lost.
- Pray – ask God to deal with anything that is standing in the way of you sharing the gospel with others.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us to know if we are called to go or if we are called to send those who are called to go. Amen?!