

I. SENT ONES

- A. “Sent ones” like ambassadors represent a greater authority who has provided an investment of authority and power from that higher rank to the one who has been sent.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. Matt. 28:18-20

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

21 So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” Jn. 20:21

- B. Summary of Matthew 9. Transitional chapter in Matthew’s narrative as the disciples are called and have been watching and helping Jesus’ expanding ministry. Now Jesus is about to send them out with a limited investment of authority and Matt. 9 is that transitional chapter that helps us make that transition.
- C. We see the calling of Matthew which serves as an example of Jesus calling disciples out of that storm tossed bitter lustful greedy harsh sea of humanity (Dan. 7:1-3).
- D. We see various healings of various types (paralytic, flow of blood, blind, demon possessed and mute, sin forgiven) and one person raised from the dead.
- E. We see confrontations and push back from the religious elite even John the Baptist’s disciples getting confused regarding fasting. Almost to say, “*Man if we can get off that fasting bus John has us on please tell us because we see your disciples aren’t fasting and if we can get off that bus please, we will!*”
- F. We see Jesus establish the central heart posture and culture of his disciples – prayer and fasting (vs. 15-17, 38), compassion (vs. 36) and mercy (vs. 13). He calls them ‘*friends of the bridegroom.*’
- G. As we connect the dots then we see Jesus’ call to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers (vs. 38), is not just a general call for laborers due to a lack of number only. We see that Jesus is saying that there is a lack in number of laborers who have been trained by him, empowered by him, walking in the culture he set. It’s not just being a number it’s about taking the discipling work of Christ...the laborers of his type empowered by his authorization are few. It’s not just fewer in number of common laborers but few in type and kind of laborer patterned after Christ.

Jesus is talking about laborers of a type who have been encountered by God and have a living relationship with God.

- H. He's looking for a laborer, who has accepted Jesus as Lord, master, redeemer, and shepherd of their lives. He's looking for people who have heard the call to come out of this boiling tempest tossed sea of humanity and accept Jesus as their leader. He's talking about a people who have learned compassion and mercy. He's talking about labourers who understand this new wineskin of fasting and prayer. He's looking for a laborer given to fasting and prayer for the sake of deeper relationship with God and strength under pressure and push back. He's talking about this kind of labourer that has power over sickness and disease. He's talking about this kind of labourer that they would go into the harvest field of the Earth, that they would go back to that boiling tempest tossed sea of humanity, and bring the presence of God into that space. He's talking about that kind of laborer.
- I. Jesus is telling us and John 20:21 that in the same way His Father had sent him to the Earth, he was now sending his disciples, having equipped them for the task ahead. He would not have sent them unless they were ready for the job.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." Jn. 20:21

- J. The fact that Jesus has given us the command to go, affirms the investment of heaven given for the task. This investment comes wrapped in faith and risk. Our authorization comes from heaven, therefore, we need not feel any pressure to perform or cook something up because it's heaven's job to authorize us.

He also chose David His servant, And took him from the sheepfolds; ⁷¹ From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. ⁷² So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. Ps. 78: 70-72

Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. ¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. Isa. 40:10-11

¹⁴ "Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD...¹⁵ And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jer. 3: 14-15

- K. What do we notice in this chapter about "sent ones"?
1. Sent by Christ disciplined after his type, kind and culture of heart posture. FOTB ministers or shepherds full of mercy and compassion for the harassed.
 2. Sent by Christ with an investment of power to...heal the sick, raise the dead, call people out of darkness, and to pronounce the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.
 3. Sent by Christ to prepare people for a spiritual transition for "new wine".