

**Introduction:**

- Matthew is again following in the theme of Jesus authority.
  - Sermon on the mount - we have never heard anyone teach with such authority.
  - Jesus in chapter 8 and start of 9 demonstrate that authority over sickness, nature, demons, sin, afflictions, death, and handicaps.
  - He answers the question posed by the different groups to demonstrate His authority. He is not afraid, of sin or sinners and He is the Son of God.
- Tonight we look at a totally new shift in the book of Matthew. The authority of Jesus is given away.
  - 9:35 and 4:23 are almost the same scripture.
  - The closing verses 9:37-38 serve as the basis for sending out the 12, and as the justification for sending out the 12.

**I. Jesus Shares His Authority****A. The transitions: Mt. 9:35-38**

1. This passage serves as a summary of chapter 5-9 and it also serves as an introduction to the mission that Jesus is about to give his disciples.
2. It highlights the concern of his heart. He wants their focus to be His focus. He wants their heart to be His heart towards the sheep. His heart goes out to them in a gut wrenching way. vs. 36
  - a) 10:6 lost sheep of Israel
  - b) 9:36 harassed and helpless sheep.
  - c) Mt 18:12-ff, Ez 34:1-16 Sheep oppressed because of failure of shepherds.
  - d) He compares the children of Israel to sheep who need direction and leadership.
3. vs 37-38 The harvest is plentiful. We need to catch Jesus sense of excitement about the harvest, not the burden of there not being enough workers. He is looking at the workers in front of Him.

**B. The disciples move from being the recipients of his ministry to being agents of His ministry.**

1. They share not only in the proclamation of the Kingdom but also in the doing of the works of mercy which characterize His authority.

**C. The mission is the primary setting and subject of this section of Matthew.**

1. It is an extension of Jesus mission that He has already been doing.
2. Vs. 2 He calls them 'apostellos' sent ones. Ones who have been sent on a mission.
3. We are called to an apostolic church. A church that carries the burden and passion of the sent one.

**II. The Mission**

- A. The who: The children of Israel. The Jews are to be main focus. Galilee is the initial boundary. We know the mission is not exclusive as Jesus has already went outside His 'box' in ministry to Soldiers,
- B. The message: The Kingdom of Heaven has arrived. Same message as Jesus and John the Baptist.

- C. The action: (the four in this list reflect the miracles of chapter 8-9 and will also be the summary in 11:5. Their mission is the extension of His.
    - 1. Heal the sick
    - 2. Raise the dead - only Elijah and Elisha did this. Only Peter - Acts 9:36-42, and Paul - Acts 20:9-12 in NT.
    - 3. Make lepers clean
    - 4. Cast out demons
  - D. The logistics: vs. 9-13; since Jesus had no place to lay his head, he sends them out in the same manner.
    - 1. Food
    - 2. Shelter
  - E. Further instructions:
    - 1. Freely you have received, freely give away. vs 8
    - 2. Leave peace where you are received. vs. 13
- III. **The Opposition** vs 16-ff.
- A. The remainder of this chapter address the fact that not every will be excited to hear about the message of the Kingdom.
  - B. Prepare to face/expect persecution.
    - 1. Be shrewd - phonimos Gr. be prudent and sensible, craft as snakes and harmless as doves.
    - 2. The persecution comes not because of social reason but because of Jesus.
      - a) Sent to face wolves 16
      - b) Before authorities because of Jesus vs 18
      - c) Hated because of Jesus name or we are his followers 22
    - 3. It is to also be note that persecution is bigger than just the limit time from of taking Gospel to Galilee. The whole world will hate and kill his followers.
  - C. Our response
    - 1. Be shrewd as a snake. The snake is one who has an instinct for survival or self preservation. We need to have the cunning of snakes without the venom. vs 16
    - 2. We are to be witnesses by our words and by our actions. vs 18
    - 3. Do not worry. vs 19-20. God can be trusted because He is your Father.
      - a) The spirit of the Father will speak through us.
      - b) John 14:10 Jesus is an example of this.
      - c) John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13-15
      - d) Endure
      - e) Flee to next town
      - f) vs 24 expect no better treat than what the Master, Jesus received.
      - g) Don't be afraid of threats vs. 26-27
      - h) Don't be afraid of those who want to kill you. vs 28 but fear God
      - i) Don't be afraid you are more valuable than the birds of the air.
  - D. The pressure leads to loyalty.
    - 1. The pressure is momentary compared to eternity.

2. Better to fear God than man.

**Conclusion:**

- Jesus now transitions from His ministry to our ministry in Him.
- Jesus calls and sends out His disciples with His authority.
- Jesus clarifies the mission
- Jesus lays out the opposition and calls us to the finish the mission no matter the cost.

*"As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:6-8, NLT)