

The King's Instructions for Faithful Ministry

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Ministry; Evangelism / Matthew 10:5–15

In Matthew 10:5–15, the King establishes four foundational principles that govern the ministry of His messengers.

Pre-sermon Comments

Sermon Text

Matthew 10:5–15 LSB

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ “Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. ⁹ “Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, ¹⁰ or a bag for *your* journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. ¹¹ “And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay there until you leave. ¹² “Now as you enter the house, give it your greeting. ¹³ “And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ “And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you leave that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ “Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

Introduction to our Text

Matthew 16:18 LSB

¹⁸ “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 10:5-15](#), the King establishes four foundational principles that govern the ministry of His messengers.

- The King’s Messengers Are Always Sent by the King with a Simple Goal ([Matt 10:5-6](#))
- The King’s Messengers have a Succinct Message and a Straightforward Attestation ([Matt 10:7-8](#))
- The King’s Messengers have a Steady Faith and Settled Contentment ([Matt 10:9-11](#))
- The King’s Messengers Speak Peace and Show Discernment ([Matt 10:12-15](#))

The King’s Messengers Are Always Sent by the King with a Simple Goal ([Matt 10:5-6](#))

The Twelve Were Sent by the King

Matthew 10:5 LSB

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans;

The Twelve Were Instructed by the King

Matthew 10:5 LSB

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans;

Matthew 10:5 NKJV

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

Matthew 9:36 LSB

³⁶ And seeing the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 6:7 LSB

⁷ And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and was giving them authority over the unclean spirits;

The King’s Call

1 Timothy 3:1 LSB

¹ It is a trustworthy saying: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a good work.

1 Timothy 4:14 LSB

¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift within you, which was given to you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

1 Corinthians 16:9 LSB

⁹ for a wide and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

The King’s Mission

The King’s Mission Focus

Matthew 10:5–6 LSB

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 28:19 LSB

¹⁹ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Acts 1:8 LSB

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even TO THE END OF THE EARTH.”

Acts 13:47 LSB

⁴⁷ “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.’”

Isaiah 42:6 LSB

⁶ “I am Yahweh, I have called You in righteousness; I will also take hold of You by the hand and guard You, And I will give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations,

Isaiah 49:6 LSB

⁶ He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to cause the preserved ones of Israel to return; I will also give You as a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Romans 1:16 LSB

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 9:4-5 LSB

⁴ who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises, ⁵ whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

John 4:22 LSB

²² “You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Acts 1:8 LSB

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to THE END OF THE EARTH.”

Galatians 2:11–15 LSB

¹¹ But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles, but when they came, he *began to* shrink back and separate himself, fearing the party of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before everyone, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? ¹⁵ “We *are* Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles;

The twelve needed a special point of attack, a limited and familiar field in which they could concentrate their fledgling efforts. An unfocused ministry is a shallow ministry. The effective worker for Jesus Christ puts his primary energy and effort into the task the Lord has assigned him. He is concerned for all of the Lord’s work, but he does not try to do it all himself. ~ John MacArthur

Matthew 15:24 LSB

²⁴ But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

The King’s Messengers have a Succinct Message and a Straightforward Attestation ([Matt 10:7-8](#))

Matthew 10:7–8 LSB

⁷ “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ “Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

The King's Message

Romans 14:17 LSB

¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 25:31 LSB

³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

Ephesians 1:13–14 LSB

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

The King's Authority

Because the twelve had no formal training and were obviously not part of the established Jewish religious leadership, which was dominated by the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests; because they were not even itinerant rabbis like Jesus; and because there was no New Testament to confirm their message, and most Jews had a distorted understanding even of their own Scriptures, the Old Testament, they had to have a special means of confirming their preaching and teaching. ~ John MacArthur

Matthew 10:8 LSB

⁸ “Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

Matthew 9:34–35 LSB

³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, “He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.” ³⁵ And Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Matthew 11:4-5 LSB

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.

2 Corinthians 12:12 LSB

¹² The signs of a true apostle were worked out among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

Ephesians 2:20 LSB

²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,

Matthew 10:8 LSB

⁸ “Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

The King’s Messengers have a Steady Faith and Settled Contentment ([Matt 10:9-11](#))

Matthew 10:10 LSB

¹⁰ or a bag for *your* journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

Matthew 10:9-10 LSB

⁹ “Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, ¹⁰ or a bag for *your* journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

Matthew 10:10 LSB

¹⁰ or a bag for *your* journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

Matthew 10:10 LSB

¹⁰ or a bag for *your* journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 LSB

¹⁷ The elders who lead well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor at *preaching* the word and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE THE OX WHILE IT IS THRESHING,” and “THE LABORER IS WORTHY OF HIS WAGES.”

Matthew 10:11 LSB

¹¹ “And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay there until you leave.

1 Timothy 6:6 LSB

⁶ But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.

The King’s Messengers Speak Peace and Show Discernment ([Matt 10:12-15](#))

Matthew 10:12-13 LSB

¹² “Now as you enter the house, give it your greeting. ¹³ “And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Matthew 10:14 LSB

¹⁴ “And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you leave that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet.

Acts 13:51 LSB

⁵¹ But having shaken off the dust of their feet against them, they went to Iconium.

Matthew 7:6 LSB

⁶ “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

Matthew 10:15 LSB

¹⁵ “Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

Conclusion:

Pastor Brandon said that “*the power of Gospel ministry does not find its source in the messengers, but in the King who sent them.*” Why is this truth so important for believers who feel weak, inadequate, or unqualified for ministry?

The sermon introduction highlights that even the apostles were flawed men—and one was a traitor.

What does this teach us about how God chooses and uses people in His kingdom?

According to [Matthew 10:5](#), why did Jesus initially send the apostles rather than to the Gentiles or Samaritans?

What does the message “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” communicate about Jesus and His mission?

In verses 7-8, the apostles preached and also performed miracles. What role did miracles play in authenticating their message?

Why do you think Jesus commanded the apostles not to acquire money or extra provisions for their mission (vv. 9–10)?

Pastor Brandon emphasized that the King’s messengers are sent by the King. How should that shape the way Christians view evangelism and ministry today?

The sermon notes that the apostles had a simple goal and a succinct message. Why is it important that the gospel message remains clear and simple?

Jesus instructed the apostles to depend on others for support because “the worker is worthy of his support.” What does this teach us about God’s provision for those serving Him?

In verses 12–15, Jesus instructs the apostles to offer peace to a household but withdraw it if the message is rejected. What does this teach us about sharing the Gospel?

Why do you think Jesus commanded the apostles to shake the dust off their feet when a town rejected the message?

Verse 15 warns that rejecting the gospel brings severe judgment. What does this passage teach us about the seriousness of rejecting Christ?

How can Christians today practice faithful ministry without relying on human strategies, gimmicks, or worldly methods?

When sharing the gospel, believers sometimes face rejection. How does Jesus' instruction in this passage help us handle rejection faithfully?

What are some ways Christians can show both peace and discernment when engaging unbelievers?

Where do you personally feel tempted to rely more on your own ability than on Christ when serving Him?

What is one practical step you can take this week to live as a faithful messenger of the King?

Looking at this passage as a whole, what is the most encouraging truth about gospel ministry?

What is the most challenging truth for you personally?

How can this small group encourage one another to be faithful messengers of Christ in everyday life?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalm 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—*And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—*if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—*therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

Brandon.Phillips@gracegainesville.org

Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org

