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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Called to Mission Matt 10:1-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

The word commission is well known, and the dictionary offers no less than seven definitions, with several sub-definitions, depending on context. Two definitions in Merriam-Webster's that should catch our attention are these: "a formal written warrant granting the power to perform various acts or duties" and "authority to act for, in behalf of, or in place of another." Those definitions are hard to tell apart; it seems like if one definition applies to you, then the other would as well, right? Some might point out that the difference lies in distinguishing between power (the ability to do something) and authority (the right to do something). Others might suggest that the difference is in the part about a commission being written. This kind of commission is well known to Christians, since Matthew 28:19, 20 is our formal written charge to make disciples (contrast Acts 26:12). Commission more in the sense of "authority to act ... in place of another" without the element of being written is also in the Bible, but less well known. That's our topic for this lesson.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Our mission as His followers is to be messengers, telling others about the Savior, Jesus Christ

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Why do we tend to lose sight of our mission? If we were to consistently embrace it, how would it affect our prayers, our words, and our actions?

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

(Rom 10:13 NKJV)

from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 30, 2002)

Matthew and Luke locate the events of our passage after the 12 disciples had had significant exposure to Jesus' message and work. Another account notes that several disciples mentioned in Matthew 10 met Jesus shortly after his baptism and witnessed his first miracle (John 1:35-2:11). Jesus later encountered Peter, Andrew, James, and John in Capernaum and famously called them from their nets to become fishers "for people". In so doing, Jesus was challenging them to leave their careers and travel with him full-time. From that vantage point, they witnessed Jesus' teachings and healings across the region. Somewhere during this campaign, Matthew the tax collector accepted the call to itinerant discipleship as well (Matthew 9:9-13). As Jesus' mission grew, he urged prayer that God would raise up more people to help with the work (Matthew 9:35-38). Our lesson text today immediately follows this call to prayer.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Men on a Mission - Jesus referred to the 12 men He called to minister with Him as disciples or apostles. The Gospels group three or four of them together with a leader. Peter, followed by Andrew, James, and John; Philip, then Bartholomew, Thomas, and Matthew; finally, James, and Thaddaeus/Judas brother of James, Simon the Zealot, and Judas. Peter, the natural leader, is always listed first, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus, is always named last.

The Assignment - Jesus first assigned the Twelve to go to their own people, the Jews. God desired for the lost among His chosen people to be the original recipients of the Gospel. The Old and New Testament clearly communicate God's heart, and the Good News about His Son is to be taken to every race and nationality. The disciples put God's power on display as they raised the dead and healed the sick. Jesus instructed the disciples to depend on God to meet their needs through the gracious hospitality of those who would hear them. The people who welcomed the men and their message would be rewarded with God's peace and blessings. But those who refused to receive God's message would face severe judgment.

The Mission Today - Jesus' call to go to the mission field, at home and abroad, is a mandate for all believers. We go, display God's power, explain the Gospel, and depend on the heavenly Father to take care of what we need. We can say, "I'm too young, I'm too old, I don't see the need to go overseas when there are so many needs here in America, I'm having a hard time financially myself." Sadly, these are the conversations often heard among believers when the topic of missions is discussed. Maybe the first step is prayer: "Lord, may the mission on Your heart to reach the lost become the mission of our hearts. Amen."

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

Series: Discipleship & Mission

UNIT: Call To Ministry

NEXT WEEK

Called to Remember

(Matthew 26:1-13)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Called into Mission (Matt 10:1-4)

Called with power (1)

- Power to do everything (Phil 4:13)
- Power through grace (2 Cor 12:9)
- Power through His presence (1 Cor 5:4)
- Power for endurance (Col 1:11)
- Power that enables us from within (Eph 3:20)

Called by name (2-3)

- By name because God is pleased with us (Ex 33:17)
- By name because God redeemed and summoned us (Isa 43:1)
- By name so that we will know that God is Lord (Isa 45:3)
- By name because God knew us before we were born (Jer 1:5)
- By name because we are Jesus' sheep (John 10:3)
- By name because we love God (1 Cor 8:3)

Called with a purpose (4)

- Purpose of God using us to work out the good (Rom 8:28)
- Purpose of belonging to God (Rom 1:6)
- Purpose of being justified and glorified (Rom 8:30)
- Purpose of election (Rom 9:11)
- Purpose of being saved (2 Thess 2:13)

Directing the Mission (Matt 10:5-8)

Directions about the unbelievers (5)

- Because unbelievers hearts have turned away from God (Heb 3:12)
- Because of unbelief in the promises of God (Rom 4:18-21)
- Because of unbelief out of ignorance (1 Tim 1:12-14)
- Because of unbelief that can be avoided by standing firm in the faith (1 Cor 16:13)
- Because of unbelief causing weaknesses and persecutions (2 Cor 12:10)
- Because unbelief can be combated by being strong in the Lord (Eph 6:10)

Directions to disciple the lost (6-7)

- Disciple because God wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)
- Disciple because of God's kindness (Rom 2:4)
- Disciple because God wants all to be saved (1 Tim 2:2-4)
- Disciple because God will give them rest (Matt 11:28)
- Disciple because there are places available in heaven (John 14:2)

Directions about the method (8)

- Method of looking to the Son and believing in Him (John 6:40)
- Method of the precious blood of Jesus (1 Peter 1:17-21)
- Method of belief in Jesus that removes condemnation (John 3:18)
- Method of belief in the gospel of salvation (Eph 1:13)

Warnings about Mission (Matt 10:9-15)

Warnings about finances (9-10)

- God will provide through the glorious riches of Jesus (Phil 4:19)
- God will provide through being made rich in every way (2 Cor 9:10-11)
- God will provide because He knows us and our needs completely (Ps 139:1-5)
- God will provide because He knows how to give to His children (Matt 7:11)
- God will provide at the proper time and amount (Ps 104:27-28)

Warnings about acceptance (11-12)

- Blessings for those who share (Rom 12:13)
- Blessings for those who entertaining strangers (Heb 13:2)
- Blessings for those who do not forget to do good to others (Heb 13:16)
- Blessings for those who feed the hungry, cloth the naked and look after the sick (Matt 25:35-40)
- Blessings for those who help others as they have the ability (Acts 11:29)

Warnings about rejection (14-15)

- Rejection is bad because it could cause condemnation (John 12:48)
- Rejection is bad because Jesus is the only way (John 14:6)
- Rejection is bad because it could cause them to be outside heaven (Rev 22:14-15)
- Rejection is bad because they could miss the inheritance of heaven (Rev 21:6-8)
- Rejection is bad because the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9-10)