

# The Limited Commission

## Mt.9:35-38

35: connects with 4:23, almost word for word

36: sheep among wolves, no shepherd: perish

- *Compassion* (pity, sympathy)
- *Harassed* (weary, dejected)
- *Throw away*, as 27:5
  - Sheep w/o shepherd – wolf meat
  - Pharisees: people are chaff

37: parallels Lk.10:2, **sending the seventy**

Mt.9:35-36, **One** (Jesus)

Mt.9:37, **twelve** (disciples); 38, pray for more

38: **send out**, as Mk.1:12 – Spirit drove Jesus out

## Mt.10:1-16

# I. Their Equipment, 1

Mere men: power to cast out demons? ...heal?

- Lord never sent anyone to do something without equipping him for the task
  - Joab's runners, 2 Sm.18:19-20
- Our equipment: Ep.6:17, sword of Spirit
  - All we have to offer: gospel

I. Their Equipment, 1

**II. Their Unity, 2-4**

# Diverse group of men – common people

## All came from different backgrounds

- **Matthew:** ‘tax collector’ – employee of Rome
- **Simon:** Canaanite (Cananaean): zealot. Sect of Jews, Lk.6:15
  - *Only God is king*
  - *Hated Rome*
  - *Justified rebellion against Rome*
- Lord sent no Pharisee / Sadducee...
- Yet these ‘natural enemies’ worked together at Lord’s command

# Diverse group of men – common people

All came from different backgrounds

All preached same message

- Paul: worked in Asia Minor
- Peter: wrote epistles to same (2 Pt.3:15-16)
  - Their differences were not denominational
  - Some competed for greatness / recognition for their work
    - Ph.1:14... same message, different motives
    - After His resurrection, no more contentions
    - Busy; no time to fight; need one another

I. Their Equipment, 1

II. Their Unity, 2-4

**III. Their Mission, 5-6**



## Limited commission: limits audience to Jews

### Contrast great commission – Mt.28:19

- Is this prejudice against Samaritans? No: Jn.4
- They're in Galilee; they start here
  - Jn.4:22, begin with Jews
- Ro.1:16. (Ac.2 . . . 10)

I. Their Equipment, 1

II. Their Unity, 2-4

III. Their Mission, 5-6

**IV. Their Message, 7**

## Proclaim: *kingdom of heaven at hand*

- Mt.3:2, (John): Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! ...4:17, From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- “Kingdom of heaven” – 32x in Matthew
  - Prepare by repentance
  - In His day, the kingdom was near; now it has come, Col.1:13
  - No enterprise more important

I. Their Equipment, 1

II. Their Unity, 2-4

III. Their Mission, 5-6

IV. Their Message, 7

**V. Their Support, 8-10**

Heal...raise dead...cleanse...cast out...free

- 8: work to bless others, but do not charge for miracles
  - Clothes – as Israel in wilderness
  - Money – trust
- Lk.22:35-38, great commission was different
  - Paul made tents...
  - Blessing – Mt.10:40-42
  - 1 Sm.30, principles

I. Their Equipment, 1

II. Their Unity, 2-4

III. Their Mission, 5-6

IV. Their Message, 7

V. Their Support, 8-10

**VI. Their Effect, 11-15**

Expect some to receive them; others to refuse

Good news did not always find a favorable reception

They could expect two opposite reactions –

1. 11-13: usual greeting to people of the house... If they were worthy, they would receive the peace that apostles prayed for
2. 14: disciples shake off dust. Mk.6:11
  - When Jews left Gentiles lands, they shook off its 'unclean' dust . . .
  - Apostles regard disobedient Jews as Gentiles (Pilate, Mt.27:24)

Expect some to receive them; others to refuse

15: warning to wicked: more bearable for Sodom...in Judgment than for these

- Cities of Galilee housed religious Jews; their rejection of gospel made them worse than Sodom. Lk.10:12
- Sinned against greater light... Ignorance is never absolute. Ro.1:20f.



I. Their Equipment, 1

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**VII. Their Character, 16**

# Three images

- 1: Sheep among wolves: world is dangerous
- 2: Shrewd as snakes: Gn.3
- 3: Innocent as doves: Jn.1:47

# How to develop this character?

- 1: Do what apostles did: stay close to Jesus
- 2: Saints in Rome: Ro.16:19-20
- 3: 1 Co.1-16: at least one sin per page
  - 2 Corinthians: even they could change

# Summary

Apostles sat at Jesus' feet, received His word, used His power, imitated His zeal to save lost

Jesus returns to heaven...

Col.1:23

Despite his privileges, Judas would fail

Despite his failures, Peter would succeed

It depends on how we react to our information – the gospel