

Preparing the King's ambassadors

Introduction

The World you and live in is a world filled with People, devastated by the impact of Adamic sin.

Every problem you face in society has its roots in sin.

You and I know that the gospel is the only true answer for this.

As people repent and trust in Christ death and resurrection they are saved.

They are called Christians.

Every truly saved Christian is a disciple.

As people trust Jesus

As they follow Him

As they are transformed by Him, society is changed, one person at a time.

Jesus commands you and I as believers to be involved in making disciples.

The question our passage addresses is how you prepare your disciple to send them out.

We begin by looking at Jesus, who called His disciples and sent them out as apostles.

You and I can learn much from the way Jesus prepared and instructed His disciples.

Historical Background

Passage

Matthew 10:1–6 LSB

¹ *And summoning His twelve disciples, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.*

² *Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;*

³ *Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;*

⁴ *Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.*

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.*

Proposition

3 Ways Jesus Prepared His Apostles for Ministry, Which Provides Lessons for Disciple Making:

1. [He gave them authority vs 1](#)
2. [He knew them by name vs 2-4](#)
3. [He sent them to their people vs 5-6](#)

1. He gave them authority vs 1.

Matthew 10:1 LSB

And summoning His twelve disciples, Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

i. And summoning His twelve disciples,

The very Men Jesus commanded to pray and ask God the Father to thrust out laborers into the harvest, are now summoned by Jesus to go into the harvest.

The term Summoning =proskaleo= to call, to summon, to call to oneself, invite someone, to call to a task- to authoritatively communicate a demand for the presence or participation. - MacArthur
- to call oneself to confront them face to face

The same term is used in Acts 2:39 in which God called the Gentiles to himself.

In the ancient world, you did not sign up to be a disciple of a rabbi, the Rabbi signed you up, meaning he issued the call.

If you accepted the call, you entered into a period of concerted apprenticeship with the rabbi.

This did not just involve transmitting information.

It involved the transmission of life.

You lived so closely to the rabbi that you could observe the lesson practiced in daily action.

One ancient writer wrote:

“Let your house be a meeting place for the rabbis and cover yourself in the dust of their feet, and drink in their words thirstily” (Tractate Pirke Avot 1:4). The ideal disciples would follow their rabbi so closely that his dust would swirl up against Him as they walked together. We should not be too far ahead of our rabbi, nor should we be too far behind.
Barney Kasdan

From all the people that followed Jesus, why did he select 12 men to do intensive training with them.

At point of world history, John the Baptist had died, and one lone laborer is seen working in the massive harvest of God in the world- Jesus Christ.

He had many who followers, many companions, but they were all observers, none were participating in the ministry.

Something had to change.

So, Jesus summoned these twelve disciples.

The fact that Jesus chose twelve parallels the larger community of Israel with its twelve tribes.

Jesus had previously prayed, chose the men Luke 6:12-13 He wanted. Mark 3:13. They did not choose Him, He chose them. He was sovereign in His selection of these men. John 15:16.

They had begun their apprenticeship with Jesus by following Him and observing what He did.

Now Jesus called them to start practicing and to join in His ministry.

The Messianic king summoned those men that He had previously chosen from the more than 70 that followed Him.

Matthew calls them disciples.

Being called disciples highlighted the importance that they were learners. But more than that.

A disciple is someone who trusts, follows and imitates their teacher.

They had trusted Jesus enough, to leave what they had been doing, and chose to walk this path of apprenticeship with Jesus and ultimately be changed by Him.

A pastor stated

“A disciple is in the process of becoming who Jesus would be if he were you.”

We carry on...

Jesus gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

Mathew had already pointed out that Jesus came from royal lineage.

Matthew 1:1 LSB

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham: He traced His lineage back to David and to Abraham

Calling Him Christ which means anointed one pointed to the three offices that were anointed: prophet, priest and King.

Calling Him the Son of David, pointed out that Jesus is the long-awaited messianic king.

Calling Him the Son of Abraham pointed out that He would be Jewish.

Abraham was promised, a great name, land, and seed, the nations would come from Him, and through Him would come one that would be a blessing to all the families on the earth.

- ▶ Genesis 12:1-3,
- ▶ Genesis 15:1-21
- ▶ Genesis 17:1-19
- ▶ Genesis 22:15-18

Gabriel prophesied to Mary that Jesus would save His people from sins (Matthew 1:21) and calling Him Immanuel- which means God with us (Matthew 1:23), revealed that the Messiah would be God coming to His people in human flesh.

Matthew 2:1 The wise men came searching for the king of the Jews (Matthew 2:2)

The prophets predicted He would come from Bethlehem and would be shepherd to His people Israel (Matthew 2:6)

John the Baptist came preparing the way for Him and called Him Lord (Matthew 3:2)

But his message was similar to Jesus' message, repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

God Himself testified at Jesus Baptism that He was His beloved son (Matthew 3:11)

Jesus himself preached to the people declaring calling people to repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matthew 4:17)- He preached the gospel of the kingdom and healed various diseases (Matthew 4:23)

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus stated that the kingdom of heaven belonged to the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3) and that those who were persecuted for righteousness.

In Matthew 8& 9 Jesus did a series of miracles demonstrating His authority over various realms.

Jesus demonstrated:

- Authoritative teaching - sermon on the mount
- Authority over the physical body- healing every sick person.
- Authority over creation as he calmed a storm Matthew 8
- Authority over the Satan's realm, casting out demons.
- Authority to forgive sins had used his authority preach, to preach heal the sick, raise the dead, calm a storm and cast out demons.

Jesus, the Messianic King had authority to reverse the consequences of the fall.

And Jesus called sinners to follow Him - sinners like Matthew.

We see that Jesus gave to these twelve sinners authority.

The term gave =didmi=to give of one's accord and with good will, grant or impose, GL = transferring something to another, bestow, give freely as a present SENSE Jesus caused them to have

The Term authority =exousia =power to-do, the right to command-and-control

Jesus defined the scope of that authority.

- to cast out demons
- to heal every sickness and disease.

The grammar tells us that this was a true statement and a snapshot event.

It happened then.

These 12 disciples did not ask for authority.

They did not pray for it.

They were specifically summoned and given this authority.

The fact that they were 12 may parallel with the 12 tribes of Israel, but we don't learn that from this passage.

The main point is that some of what Jesus had been demonstrating, Jesus now gave to a particular group of people at a particular point of time.

We, the reader, don't know the reason yet, but soon you discover the reason.

Application

1. You should realize that the authority to heal and cast out demons were given to a specific group of people. You should be very careful before assuming that you have the same authority.
2. You were not one of these twelve, you are not an apostle.
3. So, what authority does the believer have today?

Matthew 28:18 LSB

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

That Jesus was given all the authority.

We don't read that it is given to you as believer.

What is given by the believer is a command.

Make disciples.

Don't get distracted by the authority.... I Jesus will handle that part.

Since Jesus has all the authority, you are commanded to go.

Matthew 28:19–20 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,

²⁰ teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold..."
But what about the authority...

Don't worry about that.

Jesus promised to be with you in the process of making disciples.

Matthew 28:20 LSB

²⁰ ... I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

All the authority needed is found in Jesus, the authority to reverse the curses effects is in Christ.

He wields it.

He uses it when He desires, for His purposes according to his plans.

That's why you should walk in constant fellowship with Jesus.

Any time you need God's authority ask Jesus for it.

Any time you need to preach with authority, preach His word. That's the authority you wield.

But then realize the principle of authority in life.

Were all under God's authority and operate in the various realms of authority, Parents, employer, citizen.

If one is above, you in authority, you submit... that's your role.

Romans 13:1-2 LSB

¹ Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist have been appointed by God.

² Therefore whoever resists that authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

Ephesians 5:21 LSB

²¹ and being subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

If you are in authority, use it according to God's prescriptions-

In Love (Ephesians 5:25)

Don't provoke children to anger (Ephesians 6:4)

Masters don't threaten those in submission to you. (Ephesians 6:9)

That's where the authority lies.

You pray for laborers and focus on making disciples.

2. He knew them by name vs 2-4.

Matthew 10:2-4 LSB

² *Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;*

³ *Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;*

⁴ *Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.*

ii. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these:

Here we discover who the Twelve apostles were that were given the authority.

The term apostle = apstolos = to be sent, one sent and ambassador, a messenger and envoy

These were envoys of Christ, commissioned directly by Him, taught directly by Him and invested with the authority to speak on His behalf.

As disciples, they had been learning, they had been observing what Jesus did.

Now they were to practice what they saw Jesus practiced.

To make disciples involves:

- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Modeling -watching
- ▶ Discussing
- ▶ Practicing - Doing
- ▶ Debriefing
- ▶ Testing
- ▶ Praying

The grammar places the terms the twelve apostles in the emphatic position placing emphasis on it.

A direct translation would read: "the but twelve apostles the names are this."

The twelve sent out one's names are...

Matthew wanted his readers to know who the twelve were.

There needs to be no ambiguity on this matter.

These Twelve men would be sent out as Jesus' ambassadors.

These were the men given the authority.

Of the 72 disciples- these 12 received that authority.

Some observations of the list:

- The first four names are pairs of brothers.
- Each list has three groups of four headed up by Peter, Philip and James, the son of Alphaeus.

It suggests that the apostles were organizationally divided into smaller groups, each with a leader.

In the first group, you find Peter James and John who formed the inner core that went with Jesus to the transfiguration, raising Jairus daughter and Gethsemane.

Let's look briefly at the list.

The first, Simon, who is called Peter.

First is the term "protos", meaning foremost, first in prominences, most prominent- not to order but to rank, the foremost in rank, first among equals as Carson states.

In all the listings of the apostles

- ▶ Matthew 10:2-4
- ▶ Mark 3:16-19
- ▶ Luke 6:13-16
- ▶ Acts 1:13

Peter is always named first and Judas Iscariot last.

Peter was the first to:

- confessed Jesus as Messiah
- receive Jesus' harshest rebuke for seeking to hinder Jesus' journey to the cross.

All the apostles were equal:

- in divine commission
- in authority
- in reward sitting on the thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28)

but on earth, Peter served as the leader of the apostles when Christ ascended into heaven.

Peter and Andrew were also possible disciples of John the Baptist before becoming disciples of Jesus. John 1:35-42

Peter's personality was bold, impulsive, an outspoken and natural leader. He was ardent (emotional, fiery), quick to speak and act, but often misunderstood Jesus and his teachings.

It's his mother that Jesus healed in Capernaum.

Peter would:

- ▶ walk on water.
- ▶ attend the transfiguration.
- ▶ be rebuked by Jesus.
- ▶ cut off Malchus ear
- ▶ deny Jesus three times.
- ▶ would be restored.
- ▶ preached at Pentecost
- ▶ lead the apostles.
- ▶ venture out to engage the gentiles in Acts 10
- ▶ be rescued from prison.
- ▶ tradition crucified upside down

and Andrew his brother.

Andrew's personality: Quiet, humble, and brought others to Jesus

He ministered by introducing others to Jesus.

He was the first disciple called and he brought Peter to Jesus.

Tradition states He was martyred on a cross

and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother.

James and John were also fishermen and were sons of Zebedee who had a fishing business. His wife supported Jesus' ministry. (Matthew 27:55-56, Luke 8:3).

James and John were nicknamed the sons of thunder for their aggressive nature. (Mark 3:17)

James' personality Passionate, zealous, ambitious

James Peter and John formed Jesus inner circle.

James would later become the first martyr of the apostles. Acts 12

John personality was deep, loving loyal.

He was known for the apostle of love and wrote several books in the Bible.

He outlived all the apostles, and according to tradition helped nurture leaders like Polycarp, Papias and Ignatius

iii. **Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector.**

Philip's Greek name means lover of horses and came from Bethsaida.

Personality: practical thoughtful analytical

He evangelized and introduced people to Jesus like Nathanael (John 1:43-46)

His friendship circle included Bartholomew, Peter and Andrew.

Bartholomew also called Nathanael.

Personality honest, spiritually discerning.

Faithful in ministry and mission work

Tradition states he was martyred.

Thomas was honest, questioning and courageous.

Ministry known for doubt, which was resolved but also known for courageous ministry.

- ▶ John 11:16
- ▶ John 14:5
- ▶ John 20:24-29

Tradition states he later went to India and was martyred there.

Matthew also called Levi.

Precise, organized, a transformed sinner

Ministry wrote the gospel focused on the Jews.

Left his wealth as a tax collector to follow Jesus.

James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus.

James, not the brother of Jesus, called James the younger Mark 15:40, James the less.

Personality: quiet, faithful, unnoticed

Ministry steady discipleship

Very little known about him.

Thaddaeus (Jude, Lebbaeus)

Gentle, thoughtful, sincere

Ministry of encouragement

Tradition states he was martyred.

iv. Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.

Simon the Zealot was also called Simon the Cananaean.

Personality: Passionate, intense, politically zealous

Powerful gospel witness

Was a former zealot, nationalist group that upheld Jewish tradition and were actively involved in overthrowing the Romans

Then **Judas** Iscariot

Personality: Secretive, greedy, double minded

Ministry = treasurer

Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, committed suicide.

Application

You look at the list, and you realize that actually not a lot is said about them.

What I shared comes from other passages and sources.

Jesus called and sent people from diverse backgrounds, fishermen, religious activist, a tax collector, common people.

You might think Jesus would only use the rulers, instead you find Him using ordinary people.

God can use any person, no matter how insignificant you are, or how small or useless you may feel.

God can take ordinary sinners and save them.

He can take a common person and change them to accomplish extraordinary things for the Lord.

As He does that, He gets more glory.

The issue is really will you follow and obey Jesus.

Jesus knew the persons he sent.

In discipleship, it's important to really get to know the person you work with.

Know their personalities, their strengths and weaknesses, spend time with them.

Discipleship involves spending time with people and influencing people towards Christ and Christ like behavior.

3. He sent them to their people vs 5-6.

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.*

v. **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.**

These twelve - They were disciples and they became apostles (the 12 that were sent out)

We see Matthew 4:19 in action.

Matthew 4:19 LSB

¹⁹ *And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

They had been following Jesus, watching Him, learning from Him, now he would send them out as they would practice joining Him in the ministry.

From following, to imitating to joining in Jesus’s ministry.

They would become laborers in the harvest.

Jesus began by aiming them in the right direction.

Focus on these people.

The grammar states a degree of doubt.

Jesus was saying that they might not go the way of the Gentiles and might not go into the city of the Samaritans.

Gentiles refer to all the people groups that were not Jews.

Some believe Samaritan’s likely referred to the Jews that were taken into exile by the Assyrians in 722BC.

However, the Samaritan’s claimed to have descended from the Jewish tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh and viewed the Jews as guilty of apostasy and setting up heretical structures in the time of Eli rather than staying at the holy place on Mount Gerizim. They considered themselves to be true Israelites.

Irrespective Jesus limited their focus their own people group that we know was located in the Galilee area.

vi. but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

The lost sheep of Israel.

The term lost =apollumi= to destroy, perish, ruined, lost

Focus on the ruined sheep, the lost sheep, the perished sheep in the house of Israel.

Jesus had described the condition of the harvest Matthew 9:36

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.

Jeremiah used the same phrase to describe Israel said the same thing.

Jeremiah 50:6 LSB

⁶ "My people have become lost sheep; Their shepherds have led them astray. They have made them turn away ON the mountains; They have gone along from mountain to hill and have forgotten their resting place.

Why only focus Jews ...what about the Gentiles?

Having been involved in disciple making, as you equip people you start with areas that are familiar to the potential disciple.

Reaching their own people meant they understood a few things: They knew:

- the culture
- the language
- the people and their belief system.

There would be less barriers to sharing the gospel of the kingdom and ministering to them.

Jews reaching Jews would be within their circle of confidence.

Reaching Gentiles and Samaritans would mean crossing racial-language and even cultural barriers and then you add to that -these people had pagan backgrounds, not foundation had been laid concerning the only God of the Bible.

This would be practicing in the know areas of the harvest fields of God.

But more than that, it made sense to bring the good news of the Messiah and His kingdom to those people who have been waiting expectantly for the Messiah.

The Jews had the historical and religious background and had an exception and a longing for the coming Messiah.

Paul would write:

Romans 9:3–5 LSB

³ *For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh,*
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.*

God's plan always included the nations.

In Genesis 12:3 through Abraham would come someone who would be a blessing to the nations.

Israel was chosen to be a nation separate from the nations, but ultimately to be a kingdom of priests to the nations.

Exodus 19:5–6 LSB

⁵ *So now then, if you will indeed listen to My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;*
⁶ *and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."*

Isaiah predicted that the Servant that would come would be a light to the nations.

The Psalmist wrote that as God blessed Israel, it would lead to God being known and His salvation to the nations.

Psalm 67:1–2 LSB

¹ *God be gracious to us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us— Selah.*
² *That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations.*

Jesus when He ministered to the Samaritans stated that salvation is from the Jews.

John 4:22 LSB

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

Paul said the gospel was for everyone that believed, but first to the Jews then the Greeks.

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.*

When you study church history, you see how the first church planted was to the Jews in Jerusalem. Acts 2

It's only in Acts 10 that the gospel begins to expand to the Gentile people.

Even Jesus initially focused primarily on the Jews.

When He met a Canaanite women who asked Him to deliver her child, Jesus stated:

Matthew 15:24 LSB
²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

He however did cast out the demon from her child.

The point is not that the gospel is restricted to the Jews alone.

Rather they were to be the first in the line to hear the gospel.

They would be the first people to have the opportunity to accept Him as the Messiah.

But more than that Jesus came to do the will of God the Father, and God had made promises in the Scripture that the Jews would be first.

First to the Jews and then to the non-Jews

Matthew's conclusion in Matthew 28:18-20, sees the doors being swung open to focus making disciples of all the nations.

Application

What do you apply from this:

1. When making disciples, begin with baby steps.
2. You help define the particular target group, try and focus on easier groups.
3. Here at WBC, we actually have:
 - a. Theory classes on sharing the gospel- Sunday Seminary
 - b. We would aim you to share the gospel with church visitors.
 - c. Then slightly more daunting- visiting people in the mall, It's an easy outreach situation with not many barriers. The managers are receptive. d. Later on we will expand into more difficult situations.

Once you have mastered the basics, how would you master the more advanced situations?

But that is also how you should begin.

- ▶ Come for the training.
- ▶ To learn how to share the gospel
- ▶ Come and see how it's done.
- ▶ practice
- ▶ receive feedback.
- ▶ and over time you will grow in confidence.

In closing...

AMG Bible Illustrations Making Disciples

A story is told of the late Dr. R. A. Torrey. Years ago, Dr. Torrey was preaching in a church and noticed a young lawyer in his audience whom he knew. At the close of the meeting, Dr.

Torrey went to the man and asked him if he was a Christian. "Yes," the lawyer said, "I consider myself a Christian." "Are you bringing others to Christ?" the minister asked. "No, sir, I am not," he replied, "that is not my business, it is yours. I am called to practice law—you are called to preach." In response to this careless comment, Dr. Torrey then opened his Bible to Acts 8:4, and said, "Will you please read what the word of God says about it?" He read, "They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." "Oh, but those were the apostles," he explained. Dr. Torrey then said, "Will you be kind enough to read the first verse." The lawyer then read the verse that says, "And they were all scattered abroad ... except the apostles." After reading this, the man had nothing more to say; but then, what could he say? The command from God is for everyone to go out and make disciples (Mark 16:15). Are you doing this?