

Scripture Reference: Matthew 10:1-15

Date: March 2, 2014

Title: "Being His Disciple"

Focus: Discipleship (What the Church is Series 6 of 10)

1. What's in a name? Everything

2. Jesus' original followers are often identified as Apostles. However, they were first and foremost disciples. Only as Jesus, "sent [them] out" (v. 5), did they come to be identified as apostles. That is what the word means.

3. Their purpose as ones sent out, apostles, would have been meaningless without first having been His disciples, learning from Him who He was, and the purpose for which He had come.

10:1; "Jesus summoned His twelve disciples . . . "

We tend to focus on what the apostles were commissioned to do. But, the first five words stand in contrast to the remaining 14 verses.

It is the first five words that identify who these men were. These twelve were "His . . . disciples."

“His”

Identity in Christ must always precede ability or purpose.
(Note Simon in Acts 8).

Acts 8:21; "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God."

How can people who do not know God reveal Him or move in concert with His purposes?

What the apostles were to do as they were sent out is not the primary emphasis of this passage. This was not a missions trip, the apostles were to manifest God.

Notice what Jesus tells them:

vv. 5-7; *“Go to the lost sheep of the house Israel.”* They were to continue the redemptive work of God. That work John was called to, the task Jesus picked up from him.

v. 8; Bless the people; They were to manifest God’s presence and promise to love them as they obeyed.

vv. 9-15; They were to demonstrate a life of reliance upon God.

It is a heart in connection with God that is able to manifest His person.

"Disciples"

The events of chapter 10 take place in the second year of Jesus' ministry. His disciples had been living with Jesus for some time now.

As disciples, they were:

Pupils, learning about the "*Kingdom of the Heavens*" (v. 7).

Apprentices, interacting daily with the Master what it means to be a follower of God.

Adherents who through knowing and interacting, were bringing their lives into conformity with Jesus.

The disciple relationship is the means of replicating the life of the master in the student.

As the twelve, they were to go out and be Jesus in more areas than Jesus physically could.

Closing:

1. Discipleship is the nature of a relationship with God.
2. Discipleship transforms the mental, physical, and spiritual aspects of people, causing them to become like Jesus in all ways.