

THE MISSION Matthew 10:9-15

*HF Mission Slide

*Review & Introduction

- The Sermon on the Mount, **chapters 5-7**, laid the foundation for character and values in God's kingdom, including life's motivation and priorities.
- **Chapters 8-9** depict Jesus in ministry. He proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom, which includes eternal salvation, physical healing, and deliverance.
 - He modeled Kingdom ministry, or what we used to call Jesus' ministry.
- After teaching parables and healing crowds, Jesus shifts to commissioning His disciples.

*Message Theme:

- The central theme is *the radical nature of God's Kingdom Mission*.

*Message Points:

1. The promise of God's sovereign provision when in obedience to Him.
2. The promise of God's authority to bless and to rescind blessing.

*Text

*Matthew 10:9–15 (NKJV) Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food. 11 “Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. 12 And when you go into a household, greet it. *13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. 15 Assuredly, 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!*

*THE CALL TO DIVINE DEPENDENCE

vss. 9-10

Placing Your Trust

Matthew 10:9–10 (NKJV) Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

- Jesus gives a command that sounds reckless to the human ear: *“Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs.”*
- This directive might seem irresponsible. AND IT WOULD BE if it were of self-deployment and your own initiative.
- However, when God is directing, leading, and commissioning, such actions are acts of obedience and faith.
- This passage makes a strong call to trust God’s provision, wisdom, and direction.
- When we depend on our own bank accounts, reputations, or carefully laid plans—our organization, resources, genius, and determination—we depend on the creature rather than the Creator.
- If you wait until you are “secure” in your own abilities or provision before stepping out, you have misunderstood your commission.

*Divine Provision

Physical Resources

- *“for a worker is worthy of his food.”*
 - Jesus wants the disciples to understand that His people are His ambassadors, not subcontractors.
 - An ambassador is appointed by the King or nation he or she represents, and supplied with every cost to carry out the ambassadorship.

***Worth Noting:** *He is establishing a principle that remains true for every believer today; the mission is His, therefore the provision is His.*

- This is true for **financial resources**, which this text specifically addresses.
- These apostles experienced God’s provision.
- **Jesus made a promise** in the Sermon on the Mount.

***Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

- “These things” refer to physical needs.
- **Paul repeatedly experienced** God’s provision, sometimes through people and sometimes without.

***Philippians 4:11–19** (NKJV) *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. . . . 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

- **Personally experienced** God's provision. Cindy and I have many stories.
- As we have stepped out trusting that it was the Lord leading us, we have seen supernatural supply repeatedly, both for our personal needs and for the ministry, which are often intertwined.
 - Winding down a business and traveling across the state to start a church with a young family and no promise of support. It was God, and He provided!
 - We received provisions in postmarked envelopes that, after decades, we still don't know the source.
 - Begin the multi-million-dollar construction of a church building expansion, believing God said to do it without a loan. God provided; it was paid for in cash.
 - God turning upside down life and ministry in our church, yet believing it was God, so we stepped into it. We watched God provide everything that was needed.
 - God led us to move to London, where we would serve in Europe, Africa, and the UK. At that time, it was one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in. Without any promise of support, God provided for us so that we were never late on a payment for three and a half years and were able to operate an international ministry.
- **HF has experienced** God's supernatural provision.
 - Tom and Faye, with a few friends and a basement, started this church.
 - Over the years, God has sometimes guided the elders and our church family to step out in ministry, which often seemed financially irresponsible, only to have God supernaturally provide, including this building.
 - We believe that once again, God is leading and guiding us in a way that will require our faith and His provision.

***Personal Resources**

- This same promise was given to Jesus' apostles regarding non-financial provision.
- The promise to the apostles was that God would supply the words when necessary.

***Matthew 10:19–20** (NKJV) *But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.*

- Often, God guides us to speak or act on His behalf. We initially focus on our inabilities, fears, insignificance, and feelings of inferiority, which hinder us.
- When we step out, God shows up.
- The lesson is not to consider your abilities or resources and their limitations in determining your obedience.
- We step out according to God's capacity and provision, not ours.

***Worth Noting:** *Faith is not based on your ability; it is found in your steps of obedience to God.*

- Often, God does not provide until we step out in what we believe to be God's leading.

***Worth Noting:** *The measure of being reckless or responsible is not in assessing our resources or abilities but in our obedience to God.*

- This is Spirit-led decision-making and action – obedience to God and trusting Him.

***THE EXERCISE OF DIVINE AUTHORITY** vss. 11-15

Matthew 10:11–15 (NKJV) *“Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. 12 And when you go into a household, greet it. 13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. 15 Assuredly, 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!”*

- Jesus tells them to enter a city and inquire, or search who is “worthy.”
- Jesus used the word 'search' to mean “scrutinize, examine closely, inquire.”
 - It is used in Herod's instructions to the Magi to carefully search for the newborn king (**Matt. 2:8**).
- In the kingdom context, it refers to those whose hearts have been prepared by the Holy Spirit to accept the message of the King.
- We often fear rejection and worry about how we'll look or be treated. But Jesus redirects our attention from fearing people to relying on the Spirit's discernment.

***Divine Authority and Blessing**

Imparting Peace vss. 11-13a

Matthew 10:11–13a (NKJV) *“Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. 12 And when you go into a household, greet it. 13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it.”*

- He tells them to pronounce peace upon the house if they are received. Why?

***Matthew 10:40** (NKJV) *“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”*

- You are God's ambassador; you bear Christ's authority.

- This isn't just a polite greeting; it is a priestly pronouncement of blessing, like the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27.

***Numbers 6:22–27** (NKJV) *And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 23 “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: 24 “The LORD bless you and keep you; 25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’ 27 “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”*

- It's another application of Christ's authority in His followers.
- Notice the beauty of this: the disciples carry Christ's peace and can impart it.
- When you enter a home, workplace, or engage in a conversation with the gospel, you carry the King's peace with you.
- Because of Christ's authority given to the apostles, their words carried power.

***Proverbs 18:21** (NKJV) *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- Because of Christ's authority given to you, your words carry His power.

***Divine Authority and Judgment** **vss. 13b-15**

Matthew 10:13b–15 (NKJV) *But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. 15 Assuredly, 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!*

***Basis for Kingdom Judgment**

- Finally, if people or villages do not receive the apostles or their ministries, Jesus told them to **rescind their blessing**.
- We must confront the sobering reality of verses 14 and 15. Jesus instructs them: *“And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words... shake off the dust from your feet.”*
- This is not a gesture of spite; however, it is an act of a prophetic witness.
 - In essence, **“shaking the dust off the feet”** is a *powerful symbol of judgment, separation, disassociation, and divine accountability.*
 - It shows that the responsibility for rejection now rests with the rejecters. God's peace and presence are lifted.
 - They are open to their own devices and subject to Satan's realm.

- The Apostle Paul and Barnabas took this action in Antioch when the message of Jesus was rejected.

***Acts 13:50–51** (NKJV) *But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.*

- The authority that can impart blessing can also rescind blessing. All in alignment with God's heart, mind, truths, and values.

***Matthew 16:19** (NKJV) *And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

- This verse refers to Peter being appointed to oversee Christ's Church's establishment.
- Matthew 18:19 echoes the same principle regarding how the Church deals with unrepentant sinners.
- The point is Jesus Christ's authority that has been given to His followers to carry out His work.

***Gravity of Kingdom Judgment**

- And then, the verdict: *"It will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"*
- Jewish people returning to their homeland after being in Gentile lands might shake the dust off their feet.
- It wasn't an act of anger but a statement of reality.
- Jesus is saying that the Jewish people in Jewish towns who reject the message will be judged with greater severity than mere pagan people, but with the severity of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- To hear the message of the Kingdom and to reject it is a crime of cosmic proportions. It is a rejection of the Son of God
- This is a difficult truth, but it is the truth of the Gospel.
- We live in a culture that considers the gospel just an option or a "personal preference." Jesus, however, regards the gospel as the ultimate standard for eternity.

***APPLICATION**

1. See yourself as Jesus Christ's ambassador.

- Stop trusting in your capacities and resources as determining factors in obeying God.
- Step out in faith; make faith-filled and Spirit-led decisions of obedience.
- He who sends you is faithful to provide. He who commissions you is faithful to empower.

2. *Do not fear the rejection of the world.

- Their opinion does not weigh on the scales of eternity.
- Shake the dust of this world's opinions off your feet.
- Keep your eyes on Jesus Christ, your King.

3. *Live one step of obedience at a time.

- Confident of His every provision.
- Confident that you carry His authority.



CALLED FOR MISSION

Matthew 10

HARBORVIEW FELLOWSHIP

Equipping people to passionately
Live like Jesus lived,
Do what Jesus did, and
Advance His kingdom together.

THE MISSION



REVIEW - INTRODUCTION

Message Theme

The central theme is *the radical nature of God's Kingdom Mission.*

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Message Points

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Divine Provision

Physical Resources



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