



“The First Short-Term Mission Trip”
Matthew 10:1–15
The Commission of the King

Introduction:

Matthew 9:37 – “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

When churches become so inwardly focused that they lose their passion for reaching the lost, they stop growing. They become stagnant and diseased. They start to shrivel up and die. This is one of the reasons the Church in America is sick and declining.

But God wants all his followers to be ambassadors of the kingdom who proclaim the good news of Christ in a lost and dying world.

JESUS COMMISSIONS THE 12 DISCIPLES AND SENDS THEM OUT ON THEIR FIRST SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP:

1. Their Calling

“Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. 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; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.” (vv.1–4)

2. Their Mission

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (vv. 5–6)

3. Their Message

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons.” (vv.7–8)

4. Their Motive

“Freely you received, freely give.” (v.8)

5. Their Means

“Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for *your* journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.” (vv.9–10)

6. Their Reception

“And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave *that city*. As you enter the house, give it your greeting. If the house is worthy, give it your *blessing of peace*. But if it is not worthy, take back your *blessing of peace*. Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. Truly 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.” (vv.11–15)

Conclusion

Stay on mission!

As ambassadors for Christ, we have the privilege and responsibility of being his representatives and spokesmen. And our job is to go to people, not wait for them to come to us. The little commission Jesus gave the apostles is a foretaste of the Great Commission he gave to all believers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever gone on a short-term mission trip? What did you see God do, and what did you learn from the experience?
2. Read Matthew 9:37–38. If the harvest is plentiful, why do you think there are so few workers?
3. What are some differences between the little commission Jesus gave the apostles in these verses and the Great Commission he gave all believers in Matthew 28:18–20?
4. How did God minister to you through this message? What lessons or applications are you going to take away from it?