



Jason Smith – Light of the World

Part 1: Called and Commissioned

Jesus sends us into the world as He was sent—ordinary people carrying His extraordinary message of peace, forgiveness, and hope to a broken world.

Scripture: Matthew 10:1–8, John 20:21

Introduction

Have you ever felt underqualified? Maybe you were asked to lead something, to speak up, or to take on a task that felt *way bigger* than you. Maybe your first instinct was, “Me? Surely you’ve got the wrong person.”

Well, you're not alone. That’s exactly how most of Jesus' first disciples probably felt when He called them.

But Jesus didn’t call the religious elite or the socially powerful. He called fishermen. Tax collectors. Zealots. Normal people—like you and me.

And what did He do with them? He sent them out to change the world. That’s the heartbeat of this series — **SENT to be the light of the world.**

Jesus didn’t just call us to follow Him; He called us to go for Him. To move from comfort to calling. From spectators to sent ones.

Over the next four weeks, we're going to discover what it really means to live on mission — to be commissioned by Christ, empowered by His Spirit, and compelled by His love.

Today, we begin where it all starts: **you are called and commissioned.** God's plan to change the world runs straight through you.

So, the question is: **Will you step into the mission?**

Read Matthew 10:1–8

Let's read it together:

"Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans.

Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely

give.’”

(Matthew 10:1–8, NIV)

Jesus Calls the Unqualified

(Matthew 10:1–4)

Before Jesus ever sends the disciples out, **He calls them**. Matthew tells us:

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles...” *(Matthew 10:1-2)*

I love that Matthew includes their names — because each name carries a story.

These weren’t religious elites, political power players, or theological scholars. They were **ordinary people with messy backstories**:

- Peter — bold and passionate, but impulsive to a fault.
- Matthew — a tax collector, considered a traitor to his own people.
- Simon the Zealot — essentially a political radical, dreaming of overthrowing Rome.
- Thomas — the one who would later doubt Jesus’ resurrection.
- And Judas... well, we know how his story ends.

These were real people, full of flaws and failures. And yet... **Jesus called them anyway**.

Why? Because **Jesus doesn't call the qualified — He qualifies the called.**

Paul says it this way in **1 Corinthians 1:26–29**:

“Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise... so that no one may boast before him.”

That's exactly what Jesus was doing here in Matthew 10. He wasn't recruiting résumés — He was calling hearts.

Later, in **Acts 4:13**, when Peter and John stood before the religious leaders, Luke writes:

“They were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Did you catch that? It wasn't their education, their background, or their skill set that amazed people. It was their **connection to Christ**. They'd *been with Jesus*.

I'm not devaluing education; education is key in our lives, but it is not what qualifies us for the call that God has placed upon our lives.

And here's where this hits home: maybe you've disqualified yourself. Maybe you think your story is too messy or your skills are too small.

Maybe you've convinced yourself God can't use you. But listen — if you've been with Jesus, **you're exactly the kind of person He loves to send.**

Because **God's mission has never depended on your ability — it depends on your availability.**

The core values of our church, Connect, grow and serve are established on positioning each of you to become available to be spoke to and used by God.

We must understand that:

Jesus *Equips* the Willing

Matthew 10:1 tells us that Jesus **“gave them authority.”**

That's huge. He didn't just send His disciples out with good intentions and a motivational pep talk — He gave them **spiritual authority** and **power** to do the work He called them to do.

And here's the good news: He still does that today.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that **“we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”**

That means when God calls you to something, He's already prepared the way ahead of you.

You're not stepping into unknown territory alone; you're stepping into work God has been preparing since before you were born.

And if that feels intimidating — good. It should. Following Jesus often leads us into places where we feel underqualified, unprepared, and outmatched.

But that's exactly where He wants us, because that's where we learn to depend on Him.

2 Peter 1:3 says it this way: **“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us.”**

This has always been the story of the church. God uses ordinary, willing people to accomplish extraordinary things.

Augustine once said, ***“God does not choose people because they are worthy, but by choosing them He makes them worthy.”***

That’s the pattern we see again and again in Scripture: God equips the willing, not the qualified.

So maybe God’s been nudging you toward something lately — starting a ministry, forgiving someone, stepping into leadership, sharing your faith.

And maybe it feels too big for you. That’s the point. He’s not asking you to muster up the strength on your own; He’s inviting you to lean on His strength, His Spirit, and His power working through you.

Are you willing? Are you able? If so, He’ll equip you, and give you divine purpose and power to fulfill the call.

Jesus Sends with Purpose

“You know, I love how intentional Jesus is here.

Look at what He says in **Matthew 10:7–8**: ***‘As you go, proclaim this message: “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Heal the sick... Freely you have received; freely give.’***

“Do you hear the clarity in that? This wasn’t random. Jesus didn’t send His disciples out to just ‘be nice people.’

He didn't say, 'Go vibe with the culture' or 'Go blend in.' No—He gave them a **mission**.

A specific, God-shaped assignment: proclaim, heal, restore, and serve.

And then in **John 20:21**, after His resurrection, Jesus says something stunning: ***'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'***

That means the same love that sent Jesus into the world is now sending us into the world. And that blows my mind—because the mission isn't optional. It's built into our identity as followers of Jesus."

Paul picks this up in **Romans 10:14–15** when he writes, ***'How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'***

Beautiful feet. That's what Scripture calls the ones who go, the ones who carry the hope of Jesus into dark places.

But here's where this gets personal: **your life is not a waiting room for heaven**. You're not just biding your time until eternity arrives.

God has **strategically placed you**—in your neighborhood, your workplace, your school, your friend group.

There are people already in your path this week who need to experience the grace, the healing, and the truth of Jesus **through you**.

You don't need a pulpit to preach the gospel. Sometimes, proclaiming the kingdom looks like praying with a coworker who's overwhelmed.

Sometimes it looks like forgiving someone who doesn't deserve it.

Sometimes it's sitting with a friend in their pain and offering hope when they have none. That's what it means to be sent.

One more quote from St. Augustine: **'Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not.'**

In other words, God chooses to partner with His people to accomplish His purposes. You are part of His plan. You are His hands and feet, His voice and presence in the places He's put you."

So, let me ask you: *"Where has God already placed you to be a witness? Who in your path this week needs to see the kingdom—not just hear about it? What conversations, what interruptions, what opportunities might God use in you to bring His love close?"*

Conclusion

Friends, the risen Christ didn't gather His disciples in that locked room simply to comfort them—He came to **commission them**. His words still echo to us today: **"As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you."**

This means that **following Jesus isn't just about believing something; it's about becoming someone**—someone who carries His peace, offers His forgiveness, and lives out His hope wherever we go.

You are sent into your homes, your workplaces, your schools, your neighborhoods—not by accident, but **on purpose**.

This week, take time to ask yourself: *Where is God sending me today?* Maybe it's reaching out to a coworker who's struggling.

Maybe it's extending forgiveness to someone who hurt you. Maybe it's simply offering peace in the middle of chaos.

And here's the good news: you're **not sent alone**. Just as the Father equipped the Son, Jesus equips us with the Holy Spirit.

That's why next week we'll lean into this truth: when God sends, **He also empowers**.

In Luke 10, we'll see how Christ not only sends His followers but gives them His **authority** and the **Spirit's power** to do what He's called them to do.

So as you step into this week, remember: you are sent with a message of peace, forgiveness, and hope—and you carry the very presence of Christ with you wherever you go.

You are called to be the Light of the World.

Let's pray together.