

Following the King

Sermon 3 – The Commission: Sent Like the King

Matthew 10:1 – “And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.”

Matthew 10:5–8 – “These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.’”

Matthew 10:16–20 – “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 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; for it is not

you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”

Matthew 10:24–25 – “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!”

Introduction – From the Shoreline to the Sending

Discipleship is never stationary. It begins with a call, grows through formation, and culminates in mission.

In our first message, we stood on the shoreline of Galilee. Jesus looked at ordinary fishermen — uneducated, overlooked, ignored by the rabbis of their day — and said two words that split history open: “Follow Me.” That call was not to a philosophy but to a Person. Not to a system but to a Savior. We learned that **Faith is spelled L-E-A-V-E**. They left their nets, their boats, even their families to follow the King.

In our second message, we climbed the mountain where Jesus gave us the Constitution of His Kingdom. ***There, He redefined blessing: not the rich, but the poor in spirit. He redefined righteousness: not external rules, but purity of heart. He redefined love: not for friends only, but for enemies too.*** We ended with this statement burned into our hearts:

Discipleship begins where your will ends and His Word begins. The Kingdom is not built by power or position, but by purity of heart and surrender of will.

Now, in Matthew 10, the story shifts...

- Those who were called on the shore
- those who were shaped on the mountain
- are now sent into the world.

This is the third step in the movement of discipleship: THE COMMISSION.

The proof that you are truly following the King is not that you sit at His feet, but that you walk in His steps. Discipleship begins with a call, grows under His Word, and comes alive when you are sent like the King.

Point 1 – The Authority of the Commission (Matthew 10:1) - And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.

The word “power” here is *exousia* (vs. *dunamis*)

- The Greek world, *dunamis* meant raw, explosive energy — raw power.
- *Exousia*, however, meant authority — the right to exercise power.
- **A tyrant could seize *dunamis* by force, but only a king could give *exousia*.**
- Rabbis taught the principle of the *shaliach* — the emissary who carried the full authority of the one who sent him: “A man’s agent is as himself.”

Jesus fulfills this rabbinic idea and transcends it. He does not just authorize them to teach in His name. He authorizes them to confront the dominion of darkness with Heaven’s authority.

- This was staggering. In the Old Testament, authority over sickness and demons was Yahweh’s alone.

- For Jesus to grant this authority was to declare that His disciples were stepping into God's own prerogatives.

Athanasius explained it this way: "The Word was made man that He might deify us in Himself."

- This is more than permission; this is participation.
- **When Athanasius said, 'The Word was made man that He might deify us in Himself,'...**
- **He didn't mean we become little gods with thrones of our own.**
- **He meant that in Christ, the life of God flows into us.**

We are not merely forgiven sinners limping into heaven — we are Spirit-filled sons and daughters carrying Heaven's nature on earth. The King does not just save us from hell; He aligns us with Himself so fully that His life, His power, and His Kingdom manifest through us.

- **The King never sends you without His seal. His command always carries His authority.**

Transition: But authority is never for prestige. Authority is the seal, but the seal is useless without the scroll. Jesus immediately defines what His disciples must do with this authority...

Point 2 – The Assignment of the Commission (Matthew 10:5–8) - As you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.

The mission is proclamation and demonstration.

The proclamation: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- In Jewish thought, the Kingdom (malkhut shamayim) was the reign of God accepted in obedience to Torah. But Jesus declares it has broken into history through Him. The age to come is colliding with the present.

The demonstration: Heal, cleanse, raise, cast out.

- These signs correspond with Messianic prophecy: the sick healed (Isa. 35), the dead raised (Isa. 25:8), the unclean restored (Lev. 14), the oppressed delivered (Isa. 49:25).

The Gospel is not abstract information — it is embodied transformation. Chrysostom said: “Their words were short, but their power was great. For they did not merely speak of the kingdom, they revealed it.”

The Gospel is not information to be debated but transformation to be demonstrated.

Transition: But here Jesus does something no other rabbi would dare: He tells His disciples that this mission will not lead to applause, but to attack. Authority defines their right. Assignment defines their task. And now He reveals the reality: assignment will bring adversity.

Point 3 – The Adversity of the Commission (Matthew 10:16–20) - Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves...

Jesus dismantles every illusion of safety. To follow Him into mission is to walk into danger.

- The rabbis said: “The greater the man, the greater his trials” (Genesis Rabbah 55:2). Rabbi Akiva, executed by Rome, whispered with his dying breath: “Now I can fulfill the command to love the Lord with all my soul.”
- **The blood of disciples has always been the price of advancing the Kingdom.**
 - James, son of Zebedee, was beheaded by Herod.
 - Stephen, stoned outside Jerusalem, looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
 - Paul, writing from prison, said: “All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12).

Tertullian thundered: “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”

And today, in our generation, the truth stands again. The assassination of Charlie Kirk is a modern reminder: truth has a price tag. Courage is costly. To confront darkness in any age invites the wolves to bare their teeth.

Yet Jesus promises: “Do not worry... for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”

Disciples are not kept from adversity; they are carried through adversity with authority.

Transition: Authority gives us His right. Assignment gives us His work. Adversity gives us His wounds. And all of this presses us toward the crescendo of discipleship — alignment with the King.

Point 4 – The Alignment of the Commission (Matthew 10:24–25) - It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master.

- The rabbis urged their disciples: “Powder yourself in the dust of your rabbi’s feet, and drink his words with thirst.”
- But Jesus raises the stakes: the disciple is not above his teacher. It is enough — it is everything — to be like Him.

This is more than IMITATION; it is INCARNATION. Paul declared: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27). The goal of discipleship is not simply to work for Jesus, but to be so aligned with Him that His life manifests through us.

Here is the crescendo: **When disciples come into alignment with the King, the Kingdom comes into alignment with the earth.** We are His chosen vehicles for Heaven's manifestation.

- When we preach, Heaven's voice is heard.
- When we heal, Heaven's touch is felt.
- When we love, Heaven's heart is revealed.
- When we endure suffering, Heaven's victory is displayed.

Origen said: "The soul that has Christ within it becomes itself a Christ to others."

Discipleship is not complete until Christ is formed in us so fully that His Kingdom breaks into history through our lives and earth looks like Heaven.

Conclusion - Sent Like the King

Discipleship has three great movements:

- 1. The call on the shoreline***
- 2. The constitution on the mountain***
- 3. The commission into the world***

Discipleship is not complete until Christ is formed in us so fully that His Kingdom breaks into history through our lives and earth looks like Heaven.

- Paul cried in Galatians 4:19, “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you.” His goal was not converts who prayed a prayer, but disciples who carried Christ within them.
- This is why Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:10: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” He never meant that to be a hollow ritual. He meant it to be a living reality. Heaven comes to earth when disciples look like their King.

Discipleship is not simply working for Jesus, it is becoming like Jesus. It is not simply admiring the King, it is aligning with the King. And when Christ is formed in us, our very lives become the places where Heaven invades history.

- **Your home becomes an embassy of Heaven.**
- **Your workplace becomes an altar of worship.**
- **Your words become Heaven’s witness.**
- **Your touch becomes Heaven’s healing.**
- **Your endurance under trial becomes Heaven’s victory displayed on earth.**

This is the goal of the commission: not only to go for Jesus, but to live so fully in Jesus that the world sees Him through us. The proof that you are following the King is not how closely you sit by His side, but how boldly you walk in His steps.

- The question is not whether you are sent — you are. The question is whether you will let Christ be formed in you so deeply that through you, the Kingdom comes and earth begins to look like Heaven.

You were called from your nets, shaped by His words, and now you are sent — not only with His message, but with His very life. Through you, the Kingdom of Heaven invades the earth.