

Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart

PART 19 — “Power with a Cross”

Matthew 9:35-38; Ch 10.; 11:1

Jesus Entrusts His Kingdom to a Resurrected Heart

Matthew 9:35–11:1

That title captures the tension of the entire Missionary Discourse: **Jesus gives them extraordinary power in Matthew 10:1, but before sending them out, He makes sure they understand the cross in Matthew 10:38–39.**

Until now, the disciples have mostly been **watching Jesus**.

They watched Him:

- Heal the sick.
- Cast out demons.
- Calm storms.
- Forgive sins.
- Raise the dead.
- Teach about the Kingdom.

But now Jesus turns toward them and essentially says: “Now you do it.”

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.” (Mt 10:1)

As we go through Mt 10 you will notice that Jesus gives them **POWER**...and immediately begins teaching them about:

Dependence.

Rejection.

Persecution.

Fear.

Loyalty.

Sacrifice.

The cross.

Death to self.

Why? Because Jesus isn't merely teaching them how to use His power. He is teaching them how to carry His heart.

I. IT BEGINS WITH COMPASSION

Before there is power...there is compassion.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:36

Jesus sees something the disciples need to learn to see.

He doesn't see a crowd. **He sees people.**

He sees:

- weary people,
- hurting people,

- confused people,
- lost people,
- people without a shepherd.

Resurrection power begins with the heart of the King.

If we want His power but don't want His compassion...**we have missed His heart.**

II. JESUS SEES A HARVEST

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37

We just spent several sermons talking about:

Seed → Soil → Growth → Fruit → Harvest.

Now Jesus says: **"The harvest is plentiful."**

The parables weren't theoretical. There are people standing in front of Him who need someone to go into the field.

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:38

And then something beautiful and funny happens. They pray for workers... **and Jesus sends them.**

"Jesus called his twelve disciples..." Matthew 10:1

Sometimes we pray: **"God, send somebody."**

And God answers: **"I am. You."**

III. JESUS GIVES THEM HIS POWER

"He gave them authority..." Matthew 10:1

Then:

"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons." Matthew 10:8

Imagine being one of the Twelve. Yesterday you were watching Jesus.

Today: **you are doing what Jesus does.**

But Jesus immediately gives them a warning hidden inside a simple statement:

"Freely you have received; freely give." Matthew 10:8

Jesus is reminding them - **Don't forget where the power came from.**

You **received** it. You didn't create it. You didn't earn it. You don't own it.

Therefore: **The gift never makes the vessel greater than the Giver.**

IV. POWER DOES NOT MEAN INDEPENDENCE

Then Jesus says something strange.

You have supernatural authority...

but:

"Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts." Matthew 10:9

"No bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff..." Matthew 10:10

Jesus gives them power while keeping them dependent.

- Think about that. They can cast out demons... **but still need God for dinner.**
- They can heal disease... **but still need someone to give them a place to sleep.**
- They carry supernatural authority... **while remaining personally vulnerable.**

Why? Because: **Power without dependence produces pride.**

The resurrected heart never outgrows: **"Father, I need You."**

V. NOT EVERYONE WILL RECEIVE YOU

Jesus then destroys another misconception.

Having God's power doesn't mean everyone will love you.

"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet." Matthew 10:14

Remember the Sower. Same seed. Different soil.

You are responsible to sow. You are not responsible for making every heart receive.

And Jesus warns:

"It will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town."
Matthew 10:15

Revelation creates responsibility. The Kingdom has come near.

What people do with Jesus matters eternally.

VI. "I AM SENDING YOU OUT LIKE SHEEP AMONG WOLVES"

Now the message gets serious.

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves." Matthew 10:16

Not sheep among sheep. **Sheep among wolves.**

Therefore:

"Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." Matthew 10:16

Jesus does not tell them: **Be naïve.**

Nor does He tell them: **Become wolves.**

- **Wise—but innocent.**
- **Alert—but pure.**
- **Courageous—but loving.**

Jesus is telling them that the world does not get to determine the condition of your heart.

VII. POWER WILL NOT PREVENT SUFFERING

"You will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues." Matthew 10:17

"On my account you will be brought before governors and kings..." Matthew 10:18

This is crucial. We must understand and be brave enough to accept this reality.

These are people carrying **Jesus' authority**. Yet they still suffer.

Therefore: **Suffering is not necessarily evidence that God has abandoned you.**

Sometimes you are suffering precisely because you are faithfully carrying His name.

And even persecution becomes mission:

"...as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles." Matthew 10:18

Even your trial can become your testimony.

VIII. YOU WILL NOT BE ALONE

"Do not worry about what to say or how to say it." Matthew 10:19

Why?

"For it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Matthew 10:20

Jesus isn't saying: **"You are strong enough."**

He's saying: **"The Father will be with you."**

That's the resurrected heart.

Not: **I can handle anything.**

But: **Whatever comes, I will not face it without Him.**

IX. THE QUESTION BECOMES: WILL YOU ENDURE?

"You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."
Matthew 10:22

There is your growing season again. Starting isn't the entire story.

Endurance matters.

- The shallow soil started.
- The thorny soil started.
- The good soil: **endured and produced fruit.**

The resurrected heart says:

"I am not merely beginning with Jesus. I intend to finish with Jesus."

X. EXPECT TO SHARE YOUR TEACHER'S FATE

"The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master." Matthew 10:24

"It is enough for students to be like their teachers..." Matthew 10:25

There it is. **LIKE THEIR TEACHER.**

That has been the point all along.

Not just : **Do what Jesus does.**

But: **Become like Jesus.**

- If they rejected Him...don't be shocked when they reject you.
- If He suffered... don't assume discipleship means avoiding suffering.
- If He carried a cross...eventually His disciples will too.

And ultimately since He died and overcame death with death by His beautiful resurrection

We should expect the same: Many will experience this figuratively (unlucky for you)

Many will experience this literally (eternally speaking, how fortunate are you, even if it might not feel that way)

XI. BUT DO NOT BE AFRAID

Three times in this section Jesus essentially says:

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

"So do not be afraid of them..."Matthew 10:26

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." Matthew 10:28

"So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." Matthew 10:31

Notice what Jesus **doesn't** say. He doesn't say:

"Don't be afraid because nothing bad will happen."

He just told them bad things **will** happen.

His message is deeper: **Don't be afraid because nothing they do can take away what God has promised you.**

They can attack the body. They cannot steal your resurrection.

XII. THE FATHER SEES EVERY SPARROW

And right in the middle of persecution and death... Jesus talks about birds.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care." Matthew 10:29

Then He says:

"Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered." Matthew 10:30

This is beautiful. Jesus isn't promising a life without suffering.

He's promising: **You will never suffer unnoticed.**

The resurrected heart knows:

My Father sees me.

My Father knows me.

My Father values me.

My Father has not forgotten me.

XIII. DON'T HIDE YOUR ALLEGIANCE

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."
Matthew 10:32

But:

"Whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven." **Matthew 10:33**

Eventually discipleship becomes public. There comes a point where the heart must decide:

Who am I actually loyal to?

XIV. JESUS WILL CREATE A DIVIDING LINE

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth..." **Matthew 10:34**

Jesus is not celebrating conflict. He's explaining that **truth forces decisions**.

Even within families.

"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me..." **Matthew 10:37**

Jesus is touching the deepest allegiance of the human heart.

He isn't saying: **Don't love your family.**

He's saying: **Don't love anyone more than Me.**

XV. AND NOW COMES THE CROSS

Everything has been moving here. It all comes crashing to this heart derailer.

"Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me." **Matthew 10:38**

Remember: This is **before Calvary**.

They don't yet see the cross as jewelry. Or church decoration.

They see: **Execution. Humiliation. Surrender. Death.**

Jesus gave them power in verse 1. Now He gives them a cross in verse 38.

POWER WITH A CROSS.

Because Jesus will never allow **Kingdom power** to become separated from **Kingdom surrender**.

XVI. THE GREAT PARADOX OF THE RESURRECTED HEART

Then Jesus gives them the principle underneath everything:

"Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." **Matthew 10:39**

There is the entire Resurrection message.

LOSE → FIND

DIE → LIVE

SURRENDER → RECEIVE

CROSS → RESURRECTION

Our human heart says: **"Save yourself."**

The resurrected heart says: **"I entrust myself to Him."**

And Jesus says: **That is where you finally discover life.**

XVII. AND NOTHING GIVEN TO JESUS IS FORGOTTEN

Jesus ends this "pep talk" beautifully:

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me..." **Matthew 10:40**

And then:

"Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward..." **Matthew 10:41**

Finally:

"If anyone gives even a cup of cold water... that person will certainly not lose their reward." Matthew 10:42

Think about the contrast.

At the beginning: **Casting out demons. Healing diseases. Raising the dead.**

At the end: **A cup of water.**

And Jesus says: **I see that too.**

That's powerful. God doesn't only reward the spectacular. **He sees faithfulness.**

A miracle matters. A cup of water matters. A missionary matters.

The person who receives the missionary matters. **Nothing surrendered to Jesus is forgotten.**

Closing

Jesus gives His disciples tremendous authority.

But then He teaches them:

- **Don't chase power.**
- **Don't become proud.**
- **Remain dependent.**
- **Love people.**
- **Expect rejection.**
- **Stay innocent.**
- **Don't fear suffering.**
- **Trust your Father.**
- **Acknowledge Me publicly.**
- **Love Me above everything.**
- **Carry your cross.**
- **Lose your life.**
- **And trust Me with the outcome.**

Because the goal was never simply to produce disciples who could **do what Jesus did.**

The goal was to produce disciples who would become like Jesus.

And that brings us back to the central revelation:

POWER WAS NEVER THE POINT. And WILL NEVER BE THE POINT

Jesus gives them resurrection power... **but He demands a resurrected heart.**

And the proof of that heart isn't: **"Look what I can do for Jesus."**

It is: **"Even if following Jesus costs me everything, I still choose Jesus."**

Final Scripture

"Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10:39

That is the Resurrected Heart.

It has discovered the **secret** Jesus has been teaching from the beginning:

The way to life is through surrender.

The way to resurrection is through the cross.

And the heart capable of carrying His power is the heart willing to lose everything to remain His.