

# 02-15 LESSON: ANALYSIS OF MATTHEW

## CHAPTER 10 - DISCIPLESHIP AND APOSTLESHIP

---

Date Time: 2026-02-15 11:17:32

Location: First Baptist Church Tallassee

Instructor: Sid Edwards

### SUMMARY

---

This lesson provides a detailed analysis of Matthew chapter ten, presenting it as an instruction manual from Jesus to his disciples. The chapter is divided into three time frames: instructions for the apostles of Jesus's time, for future believers from Pentecost to the present, and for disciples at the end of time. The lecture explains that Matthew's primary goal was to convince his Jewish audience that Jesus is the Messiah by revealing his person, principles, and power through miracles. Jesus empowered the twelve apostles with authority over demons and disease to authenticate their ministry, as the Jews required signs. The analysis details the distinction between "disciples" (learners) and "apostles" (sent ones), outlining their initial mission to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." It covers their instructions on where to go, the principle of "freely give, freely receive," and the prophetic warnings of future persecution.

The lesson then transitions to themes of fear, confession, spiritual conflict, and eternal rewards. It encourages believers not to fear physical harm but to maintain total commitment to Christ, even if it leads to division within families. This commitment is symbolized by "taking up one's cross." The series concludes by exploring the concepts of rewards and punishments, discussing the possibility of varying degrees in both heaven and hell, and differentiating between the judgment seat of Christ for believers and the great white throne judgment for the unsaved. Throughout, the teachings are applied to present-day Christians, who are called to be both disciples and apostles, living without fear and using modern tools to proclaim the gospel.

## KNOWLEDGE POINTS

---

### 1. Context and Mission of the Twelve Apostles

- **Matthew Ten as an Instruction Manual:** The chapter is presented as an instruction manual from Jesus, divided into three time frames: for the original apostles, for all believers from Pentecost to the present, and for disciples during the end-time tribulation.
- **Matthew's Goal and Structure:** Matthew wrote primarily to a Jewish audience to prove Jesus is the Messiah. Chapters 1-4 reveal the "person of the King," chapters 5-7 detail his "principles," and chapters 8-10 demonstrate his "power" through miracles.
- **Disciples vs. Apostles:** "Disciples" are learners, while "apostles" are those who are sent. The twelve were hand-picked as primary witnesses to Jesus's life, ministry, and resurrection.
- **The Naming of the Twelve:** Matthew 10:2-4 lists the twelve apostles: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James son of Zebedee, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew the tax collector, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon the zealot, and Judas Iscariot. They were sent out in pairs. Matthew includes his own former profession as a reminder of his past and transformation.
- **Initial Mission Instructions:** The apostles were sent specifically to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel," and told not to go to the Gentiles or Samaritans at that time. Their message was, "The kingdom of heaven has come near."
- **Empowerment and Provisions:** Jesus gave them authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. This power served as a sign to authenticate their ministry to the Jews. They were told to "freely give" without charging and to "freely take" support, not carrying extra money or provisions, as "the worker is deserving of his support."
- **Entering a City:** They were to find a "worthy" (receptive) house and stay there. If a town rejected their message, they were to "shake the dust off your feet" as a sign of judgment.

## 2. Prophetic Timelines and Spiritual Realities

- **The Kingdom of Heaven:** This refers to the reign of God, which was first offered to the Jews. After their rejection, the offer was extended to the Gentiles on the Day of Pentecost when the church was born. God's promises to the nation of Israel will be fulfilled at the end of time.
- **Future Persecution:** Jesus prophesied that believers would be sent "as sheep in the midst of wolves," handed over to courts, flogged, and brought before rulers. Families would betray one another. This persecution occurred after Pentecost and will intensify during the tribulation.
- **The Role of the Holy Spirit:** Jesus promised that when believers are persecuted, the Spirit of the Father will speak through them. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all believers began on the Day of Pentecost.
- **Overcoming Fear:** Believers should not fear those who can only kill the body, but rather God, who has power over both body and soul in hell. For a Christian, death is "going home to be with Jesus."
- **Value to God:** Using the analogy of sparrows, the lecture emphasizes that believers are far more valuable to God. His care is so meticulous that He knows every sparrow that falls and has metaphorically numbered the hairs on each person's head.
- **Limitations of Satan:** Satan cannot touch a believer without God's permission (as in the story of Job) and cannot take away their salvation or eternal rewards.

## 3. The Cost of Discipleship and Final Judgment

- **Confessing and Denying Christ:** To confess Christ is to acknowledge Him as Lord. Jesus will confess before the Father those who confess Him before people, and deny those who deny Him.
- **The Gospel Causes Division:** Jesus stated He came not to bring peace but a "sword," signifying that the gospel message inherently creates conflict and division, sometimes even within families.

- **Total Commitment:** Disciples must love Jesus more than their closest family members. “Taking up one’s cross” symbolizes total commitment and a

willingness to die to self-interest and live for Christ.

- **Rewards and Punishments:** Welcoming and supporting Christ’s followers

(prophets, righteous people, “little ones” - new believers) will bring a reward. Even a small act like giving a “cup of cold water” is rewarded. The text also implies there may be degrees of punishment in hell and degrees of reward (crowns) in heaven for believers.

- **The Final Judgments:**

- **The Judgment Seat of Christ:** For believers, where they give an account of their lives and receive rewards. Salvation is not at stake.

- **The Great White Throne Judgment:** For the unsaved, where they are judged based on the Book of Deeds and condemned for rejecting Christ. Their names are not in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

- **Application for Present-Day Christians:** Today’s believers are both disciples (lifelong learners) and apostles (sent ones) tasked with sharing the gospel in their daily lives (“as you go”). They should expect opposition, as a disciple is not above their teacher. Believers are called to live openly without fear and use modern tools (internet, social media) to proclaim the message “from the housetops.”

## ASSIGNMENTS

---

- [ ] 1. Read Matthew chapter ten to understand the instructions Jesus gave to his disciples.
- [ ] 2. Compare the lists of apostles in the different gospels to see the variations in how they are named.
- [ ] 3. Reflect on Matthew’s inclusion of his past as a tax collector and what it signifies about transformation and identity in faith.

- [ ] 4. Continually learn as a disciple, aiming to learn something new every week.
- [ ] 5. Act as an apostle by sharing the good news as you go about your daily life.
- [ ] 6. Live an open and honest life without fear of what others think, knowing that all things will be revealed.
- [ ] 7. Utilize modern tools and platforms (like social media) to “shout from the housetops” and proclaim the message.
- [ ] 8. Reflect on the concept of “taking up your cross,” considering what total commitment and dying to self means in your own life.
- [ ] 9. Consider ways to support fellow Christians, particularly new believers (“little ones”), through mentorship or simple acts of kindness.
- [ ] 10. Work on being a worthy representative of Jesus daily by asking for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.

## **MATTHEW CHAPTER TEN TAKE-A-WAYS**

### **AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR THE APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES OF JESUS**

For the Past Apostles (Vss 1-15)

For the Future Apostles (Vss 16-23)

For the Present Disciples (Vss 24-42)

Jesus looks thru the lens of time

And sees the three ears of His apostles and disciples

He speaks of the equipment they will need to be His follower

He speaks of the fear that discourages disciples

And the foes who attack the disciples

God watches over His own in their journey of faith

And supplies friends to support and encourage them along the way

The Bible is God’s instruction manual for His created beings

Is what Christ demands from His followers today

Any different than what He demanded during His earthly ministry?

The comments to the Future Apostles in Vss 16-23  
Closely parallel Jesus remarks in Matthew 24 - His famous "Olivet  
Discourse"

Tim LaHaye wrote in "Charting the End Times" :  
"The Olivet Discourse, delivered shortly before Jesus' crucifixion, is  
the most important single passage of prophecy in all the Bible. It is  
significant because it came from Jesus Himself immediately after He  
was rejected by His own people and because it provides the master  
outline of end-time events."