

Questions for Matthew 10:1-22

For Tres Stone

1. What are some of the differences between the list of apostles that Matthew gives and that of Mark and Luke? Is this a separate event from the sending of the 70 in Luke 10? (Verses 1-4)

Tres Stone: "Lukes account is chapter 6 verses 12- 16, and Marks account is chapter 3 Verses 13- 19. In Lukes account the gifts that were given to the twelve were not mentioned. Lukes list of Apostles is not as detailed as Matthew and Marks list's. In Matthew's letter only is he mentioned as a tax collector. also, only in Matthews letter is Thaddeus also named Lebbaeus. Thaddeus is mentioned in Marks letter but not in Lukes letter."

Loren Gorrell: "Luke 6:12 tells us that Jesus prior to appointing the prayed all night on a mountain. Mark 3:13 says Jesus called the 12 on the mountain.

:15 says they were given power to heal sickness and cast out demons.

:17 Jesus's pet term for James and John was Sons of Thunder

Matthew in his list identifies himself as a tax collect, a despised occupation, Luke and Mark do not mention this.

Luke 9:1-6 also records the sending of the 12, Luke 10 records the sending of the 70 therefore these were separate events for different participants.

Barnes identifies the twelve who would become apostles as close companions (Mark 3:14) but the seventy went out to preach in areas prior Jesus going there."

Austin Maddox: "Simon Peter, James and John the sons of Thunder (Mark) sons of Zebedee (Matthew), Andrew Peter's brother, (All 3 accounts have the same basic order), Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Canaanite or the Zelotes, with Judas always being mentioned last and always identified as the traitor. The only difference of note is that Luke records one of the apostles as being Judas the brother of James while Mark and Matthew do not mention him and

rather record someone named Thaddeus. It is not a far leap to conclude that Thaddeus and Judas are the same person.

This is a separate event because Luke is the only one of the 3 synoptic gospels that actually points out that there were 2 separate events. Luke 9 records the sending out specifically of the 12 and then in chapter 10 Jesus appoints a different set of disciples 70, that were to go out in pairs and their parameters, while similar, were different in that they were to go into every city and place, while the apostles were to only go to the house of Israel. The duration of this trip is unknown, but it appears to be a fairly short time, certainly not something that took longer than maybe a month or two, though that is simple conjecture.”

For Mahlon Miller

2. Where were the disciples supposed to go? What were they supposed to do? Why? (Verses 5-10)

Mahlon Miller: "The disciples are supposed to go out to the lost sheep in Israel. Jesus at first tells them where they shouldn't go, and that would be to the Gentiles or Samaritans. Perhaps these 2 groups were not ready or the timing was not right for the message yet. So they couldn't go north to Syria, south to Samaria, or east to Decapolis.

They were supposed to spread the good news of salvation. Preaching of Jesus and the kingdom of Heaven.

Also, included in this they were supposed to perform miracles such as healing the sick, cleansing the leper's, raising the dead, or casting out demons. Thru these great wonders and miracles they would validate that their message is truly from God.

Why? The disciples were to go out to preach and perform these great wonders so that the lost could be saved. The lost would see the great power of God and hopefully make the decision of following Christ.

Bill Smith: "(1) Vs6, the lost sheep of Isreal. That would suggest, the Jews of Galilee most likely. A similar description was also used 9:36, "like sheep having no shepherd" God's chosen people back in Ex.19:6. Matt.15:24 records Jesus explaining to His disciples why He wouldn't

help the woman of Canaan. "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Were not to go unto the Gentiles or Samaritans.

(2) They were to preach about the kingdom of heaven being at hand. (vs. 6). Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons (vs. 8). Freely you have received, freely give, meaning they were not to use their new powers for personal gain.

Take no provisions (food, money, extra clothing, no shoes, not even a walking stick for themselves!

(3) Teaches them to be trusting in their leader. Growing their faith in Jesus. I suppose to kick start their careers, an important practical exercise"

Austin Maddox: "They are commanded to stay away from Gentiles and Samaritans and only go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Why? Because of the special place that the Jews had as God's special people. It wasn't time for the Gentiles or Samaritans yet, there time would come. But there is a reason that they were only supposed to go to Israel and that's because they were given the privilege of seeing the kingdom come first.

They were supposed to start preaching that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. That was their mission. In addition to their preaching they were supposed to perform miracles. Why were they performing miracles? As proof that what they were saying was coming from the Lord! That is the whole point of miracles in the first place. At the same time, they were told that because they had been freely given these abilities, they should freely give to others as well.

On their journey they weren't to pack for a long journey but rather be fed, housed and paid by those that they preached to. This follows very similarly to what the prophets of old like Elijah and Elisha would do. Perhaps this helps them in the fact that people don't look at them as swindlers or deceivers. They aren't sporting an overabundance of riches and possessions, they don't come with pomp and circumstance, they come preaching the word, the focus was on the word and the miracles and the power of God and not on them."

For Loren Gorrell

3. How could the disciples tell if a house was worthy or not? (Verses 11-13)

Loren Gorrell: "By the context of verses 12-15 worthiness (vs. 13) is tied to the willingness to receive the disciples themselves and their message (vs. 14).

Simeon is an example of a Jew of the time who had a "worthy" attitude. He rejoiced to see the Messiah with his eyes Luke 2:25-32."

Dennis Nilson: "In verse 11, the disciples are given a specific tool to be used in securing a base of operation in a foreign city or town. And that was when you enter such a place, "ask around" (probably at the city gate or entrance to the town),...ask those locals who here is WORTHY. Who in this place are people of character whose deeds are well known to be of good repute. If you enter a household of such a person/family you are to greet that household with the salutation "Peace be upon this house" (Luke 10:5) which in light of the knowledge of the "Peace of Christ" (John 14:22) meant a whole lot. Although not specifically stated, this greeting would convey who this disciple was and what his mission was about. If he and his mission found an unreceptive environment then his peace was to return to him (much like the dove sent out from the ark,..when it found no place to land,..no place to settle and reproduce,..it returned to the ark).

Austin Maddox: "I think perhaps the answer is in verse 14. They were to depart if the house did not receive them or hear their words. Initially it appears that it was through word of mouth. The people knew who was worthy. That should tell us something about what people would say about our homes. Do you have a worthy home? Do the people around you consider your home to be worthy to house men of God such as these apostles back in the day? 2 important factors are whether a home welcomes people in and if they listen to the words of the Lord."

Bill Smith: "It was suggested that these missionaries would be inquiring at the gate of these cities for places to stay. "Worthy households", would include homes of good report, spiritual, and hospitable. Homes that would welcome the missionaries and their message of the kingdom, that had a true love of God, those were "Worthy homes". Homes considered unworthy would include those that might have been recommended, but when the missionaries shared that message it was rejected (vs14)"

Bart Shaw: “At least two ways—the first is hospitality. Abraham, was a “lover of strangers.” In the Lord’s day, hospitality was greatly valued and respected. The second way and most important way would be whether the house was accepting of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words (Mt 10:14)...

The “worthy” families welcomed Jesus’ disciples and desired to hear more about this Messiah and His mission. “Unworthy” homes, conversely, would be neither hospitable nor amenable to Jesus’ disciples or Jesus’ message. These hosts might initially allow the disciples inside the home, but once they heard of Jesus Christ, they discontinued being receptive!”

For Levi Shaw

4. Why were the disciples urged to shake the dust off of their feet? What does this symbolize? (Verses 14-15)

Levi Shaw: “He tells them to “shake the dust off their feet” because if they preach Jesus to them, and they don’t except it, he doesn’t want them to get super frustrated. Keep on going house to house, because they (people who rejected the Messiah) are not worthy of their time, because they ignorantly casted out a precious pearl.”

Bart Shaw: “For the unworthy people who rejected the gospel of the kingdom, Jesus instructed the disciples to shake the dust off their sandals as they left. Jesus had earlier taught: “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces” (Matthew 7:6). The gospel is a “pearl of great price” (Matthew 13:46). Don’t waste it on an “unworthy” audience, instead move on.

There is a similar reference in Nehemiah when the prophet shook out the folds of his robe as a symbol of the solemnity of an oath and to reinforce the attendant curses that would follow should the oath be broken:

I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of his house and possessions every man who does not keep

this promise. So may such a man be shaken out and emptied!” (Nehemiah 5:13)

Like dust out of Nehemiah’s robe, the house that rejected the gospel would be shaken and emptied! Curses and destruction would come upon that household. In fact, this is the sin against the Holy Spirit. When a Jew absolutely refused to listen to the Holy Spirit about the anointed Christ Jesus, then they had committed the unpardonable sin and no salvation was possible because they refused to obey the gospel.”

Bill Smith: “Acts.13:51 records Paul and Barnabas shaking the dust off their feet as they left Iconium. This practice is thought to have its origins from Jewish rabbis, who suggested that the dust of heathen cities defiled them. This gesture then was showing any watching that their city was no better than a Heathen / Gentile city. Mark 6:11 records that this shaking of the dust was a testimony against them. How interesting is it that Paul in Acts 18 meets Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth. Maybe this household was recommended to him and it didn't hurt that they were of the same occupation, (18:3). Regardless, Paul stays with them and very likely practiced what Jesus had wanted his apostles to do in a worthy house. That effort and likely Paul's efforts in the synagogue every sabbath (vs.4) made an impression on these 2 that served them well.”

For Landon Shaw

5. What does it mean to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves? What should the implications be for us today? (Verse 16)

Landon Shaw: “In this verse, we see four different animals and three of them the disciples are compared too. The sheep and wolf imagery graphically depicts the disciples as defenseless sheep against the ferocious attacks of hungry wolves, but this is followed up instructions from Jesus for how to handle such danger. They are told to be as wise/shrewd as snakes. This just means that they needed to approach every situation with a clear head and carefully think through it. Obviously the reason a snake is used here is a reference to Genesis 3:1 where the serpent is described as “more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord has made.” And the innocence of the dove means that they must seek to

do what is right in these types of situations. Being able to handle these situations correctly will cause any opponent to be silenced, much like how Jesus did it (Matthew 22:41-46).”

Loren Gorrell: “The disciples were being sent out as sheep into the midst of wolves.

Wolves are savage pack predators that enjoy the kill. Often used to represent false teachers (Matt 7:15). While sheep are trusting obedient animals, who follow a leader, used to represent the followers of Jesus. The snake, serpent, like the wolf is a predator. But they are able to sense danger and avoid it. It is an ancient symbol of wisdom. Genesis 3:1 “more cunning than any beast of the field”. There the snake was the devil. Perhaps to Eve the snake seemed wise. Christians are to have this one personality aspect, use cautious wisdom.

The dove is a symbol of peace and hope. Noah sent out a dove Genesis 8:8-12

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and is tied as to the work of Jesus – John 1:32

Coffman points out the dove was clean, is monogamous, is peaceful and gentle, and can be a messenger - all aspects of a Christian.

Levi Shaw: “Don’t let a sinner try to entangle you in his foolish ways, be on the lookout. They might try to trip you up over your words, but articulate them carefully and clear any thought out of their minds that you might have had harmful intentions.”

Austin Maddox: “Jesus acknowledges the fact that he is sending his apostles into a situation that is less than ideal, likening it to sheep in the middle of wolves. What is their best defense? Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Serpents have long been a symbol of cunning and shrewdness. The same should be true of the apostles. You are going to have to be smarter than your opponents! You have to be quicker than those that are trying to devour you! At the same time, you have to be as harmless as doves. What is the dove’s best defense? Flying away! They don’t fight, they aren’t aggressive in any way. Were the apostles going to out-muscle their opponents? No! They were told to move on. That sums up what Christians are supposed to be about even today. We are to be

smarter than our adversaries, but we aren't here to win the world through brute strength. That is not where our battle lies.”

Logan Shaw: “Simply put, the apostles were to have their wits about them while embodying the merciful nature of Jesus Christ. This is true for us today as many decisions we make with people in the world require tact. The amount of attention you pay at any given time can be the difference between an opportunity to share the gospel or perhaps the alienation of a stranger.”

For Bart Shaw

6. How are they supposed to handle persecutions and interactions with those that are they brought before for an answer? (Verses 17-22)

Bart Shaw: “The prophetic words of Christ describe how the persecutions of various kings, governors, proconsuls, and so on would come against the twelve before the destruction of Jerusalem. From the death of Stephen to the persecution of Nero the faithful were bullied and murdered by Jews and Romans alike. What a shock this must have been to the disciples! Instead of their imaginations of a great civic royal earthly kingdom with them as important officials at the elbow of the ruling Messiah, they are to be persecuted and reviled. How can this be? The question isn't answered, but they are given instruction on how to deal with the persecution.

The first principle has been already stated: Be as harmless as sheep. Jesus Himself did no violence (ISA 53:9). We are not permitted to respond to persecution with violence. This is sin. What are the options? There is only one: ^{Verse 23} When they persecute you in this city, flee to another! Run away, don't fight back!

The second principle is to endure. ²² And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. Have faith in the outcome! The gospel narrative will reach a conclusion that God demands and no man can stop or subvert the purposes of God.

The third principle for the twelve was that God Himself would be their voice. This is truly an amazing promise.

As Coffman states: “This is one of the strongest statements in the New Testament of that inspiration which guided the apostles into all truth.”

The 12 apostles were mostly rustic Galileans who lacked an extensive education, and were totally unacquainted with the laws of the Romans and their courts. How terrifying to imagine appearing before kings, governors, and other persons of distinction. But, the Lord says, don't worry. How sweet and assuring is the promise that God will give them the words they needed to defend the truth.”

Dennis Nilson: “Jesus told the disciples that when they get arrested for preaching the gospel, they should not worry about what to say in their defense,...the Spirit of God would speak through them,..giving them the precise words that they should say in that situation. This promise was fulfilled in Acts 4:8-14 and elsewhere. Some mistakenly think this means we don't have to prepare ourselves to present the gospel because God will take care of everything. Scripture teaches that is not the way it works now. We need to be carefully prepared and make well thought out statements when speaking to others about Christ and His gospel (Col. 4:6). The Lord here is not telling us to NOT prepare,..He's telling us not to WORRY about what we shall say (provided we have prepared ourselves sufficiently through careful study of His Word).”

Austin Maddox: “Endure! Jesus tells them that the one that holds on to the end is the one that will be saved. They are going to face very bad circumstances. They are told to beware of men in general. They were going to be hated of all men, even saying that there would be some of their own family that would turn on them for the cause of Christ. They were given an ability for those moments. They were to take no thought for what they ought to say, it was going to be given to them through the Holy Spirit. This is something that only applied to them, and certainly something that no longer carries over to us today. They didn't have to come up with a lesson on the fly or try to convince someone of the gospel just off the top of their heads. They are not told to resist, again going back to the harmless as doves, but wise as serpents. When they are brought before these people in high places, they are going to have an answer to

give. Don't ever let someone tell you that it is cowardice to not fight. The strength of the fight is not in brawn but in brains! They had to give intelligent answers, and the Holy Spirit was going to be there to make sure that they could."