CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Matthew Chapter 10 — The Mission of the Twelve

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Matthew Chapter 9 ended with Jesus looking at the crowds with compassion.

They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus told His disciples:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”

He told them to pray for workers.

Now, in Matthew Chapter 10, Jesus sends out the very men who prayed.

The disciples become the answer to their own prayer.

This chapter is the second of five great teaching sections in Matthew.

It is often called **the Mission Discourse.**

Jesus calls twelve men.

He gives them authority.

He tells them where to go and what to say.

He tells them to travel light and trust God to provide.

Then He gives them a sober warning.

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves.”

They will be arrested.

They will be beaten.

They will be hated.

Even their own families may turn against them.

But Jesus also gives them great encouragement.

The Spirit of the Father will speak through them.

Not one sparrow falls without the Father's care.

Every hair on their heads is numbered.

They do not need to be afraid.

Then Jesus speaks about the cost of following Him.

Loyalty to Him must come before family.

Every disciple must take up a cross.

And whoever loses his life for Jesus will find it.

The chapter ends with a promise.

Even a cup of cold water given to one of His followers will not go unrewarded.

Matthew 10 therefore shows us two great truths:

Jesus sends His people into the world with His authority.

And:

Following Jesus will cost everything, but it is worth everything.

The central truth of Matthew 10 is:

Jesus sends His followers into a hostile world with His authority and message, calling them to fearless, costly loyalty and promising His care and reward to all who are faithful.

I. JESUS GIVES AUTHORITY TO THE TWELVE

Matthew 10:1 — Authority to Heal and Deliver

“Jesus called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out unclean spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.”

Jesus **called** His twelve disciples.

Before He sent them out, He called them to Himself.

Being with Jesus comes before going for Jesus.

Then He **gave them authority.**

They did not have this power on their own.

It came from Jesus.

He gave them authority to do the same things He had been doing:

Drive out unclean spirits.

Heal every disease and sickness.

The number **twelve** was important.

Israel had twelve tribes.

Jesus was forming a new people of God, built on twelve apostles.

Cross References

Mark 6:7

> Jesus called the twelve followers together and began to send them out two by two. He gave them authority over evil spirits.

Luke 9:1

> Jesus called the twelve apostles together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal diseases.

Luke 10:1

> After this, the Lord chose seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He planned to go.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus never sends His people out without first equipping them.

Key Truth

The authority belongs to Jesus.

His servants only carry it.

II. THE NAMES OF THE APOSTLES

Matthew 10:2 — Peter, Andrew, James, and John

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

This is the only place in Matthew where they are called **apostles.**

The word **apostle** means **“one who is sent.”**

A disciple is a learner.

An apostle is a messenger sent with authority.

The list begins with **Simon Peter.**

Matthew says **“First.”**

Peter was not more important in God's eyes.

But he was often the leader and spokesman of the group.

Then come **Andrew**, Peter's brother.

James and **John**, the sons of Zebedee.

These four fishermen were the first called.

Cross References

Mark 3:16

> These are the twelve He chose: Simon, whom Jesus named Peter...

Luke 6:14

> Simon, whom He named Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew...

John 1:40

> Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two men who heard John speak and then followed Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

God knows His servants by name.

III. PHILIP, BARTHOLOMEW, THOMAS, AND MATTHEW

Matthew 10:3 — An Unlikely Group

“Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus;”

Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town as Peter and Andrew.

Bartholomew is probably the same man John's Gospel calls **Nathanael.**

Thomas is often remembered for doubting, but he also showed great courage and later made one of the greatest confessions: **“My Lord and my God!”**

Matthew humbly calls himself **“the tax collector.”**

He did not hide his past.

He wanted readers to know the grace that had called him.

James son of Alphaeus is sometimes called **James the Less**, perhaps because he was younger or shorter.

Thaddaeus is also called **Judas son of James** in Luke.

We know very little about some of these men.

But Jesus chose each one.

Cross References

Mark 3:18

> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot...

John 1:45

> Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the One Moses wrote about in the law, and the prophets also wrote about Him. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Matthew 9:9

> As Jesus was leaving, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax booth. Jesus said to him, “Follow Me.” So Matthew got up and followed Him.

Spiritual Principle

God uses ordinary people, including some the world would forget.

Key Truth

Matthew never forgot where he came from.

That is why he never forgot the grace of Jesus.

IV. SIMON THE ZEALOT AND JUDAS ISCARIOT

Matthew 10:4 — The One Who Would Betray Him

“Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who would betray Him.”

Simon the Zealot had probably belonged to the Zealots.

They were Jewish patriots who wanted to overthrow Rome by force.

Think about this.

Jesus chose **Matthew**, who worked for Rome.

And **Simon**, who wanted to fight Rome.

In any other group, they would have been enemies.

In Jesus, they became brothers.

The list ends with **Judas Iscariot.**

He is always listed last.

And he is always marked as **the one who would betray Him.**

Judas walked with Jesus for three years.

He saw the miracles.

He heard the teaching.

He was sent out with the others.

Yet his heart was never truly given to Jesus.

Cross References

Luke 6:15

> Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot...

Acts 1:13

> They went into the upstairs room where they were staying: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

John 13:2

> The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus can unite people who would otherwise be enemies.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to be close to Jesus outwardly and far from Him inwardly.

V. NOT TO THE GENTILES OR SAMARITANS

Matthew 10:5 — Instructions for the Mission

“Jesus sent out these twelve with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans.’”

Now Jesus gives specific instructions.

For this mission, they were not to go to the **Gentiles** or the **Samaritans.**

Why?

Jesus was not against the Gentiles.

He had just healed a Roman centurion's servant.

But God's plan had an order.

The good news would go first to Israel.

Later, after His resurrection, Jesus would send His followers to all nations.

This mission was limited.

The Great Commission would be worldwide.

Cross References

Matthew 15:24

> Jesus answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.”

John 4:9

> The Samaritan woman said to Him, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. How can You ask me for a drink?” Jews did not have anything to do with Samaritans.

Acts 1:8

> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Spiritual Principle

God works according to His own plan and timing.

Key Truth

What began with Israel would one day reach the whole world.

VI. THE LOST SHEEP OF ISRAEL

Matthew 10:6 — Go to Israel First

“Go instead to the lost sheep of Israel.”

Jesus called Israel **lost sheep.**

This connects back to Matthew 9:36.

The crowds were like sheep without a shepherd.

They were religious.

They had the law.

They had the temple.

But they were **lost.**

Their leaders had failed them.

They needed to hear about the true Shepherd.

Cross References

Matthew 15:24

> Jesus answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.”

Jeremiah 50:6

> My people have been like lost sheep. Their shepherds led them the wrong way and made them wander on the mountains.

Ezekiel 34:5

> The sheep were scattered because there was no shepherd. They became food for every wild animal.

Spiritual Principle

Religious people can still be lost.

VII. PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM

Matthew 10:7 — The Message

“As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’”

Notice the words **“as you go.”**

Preaching was not only for special places.

It was part of their journey.

And their message was the same message John the Baptist preached.

The same message Jesus preached.

“The kingdom of heaven has come near.”

The King had arrived.

God's rule was breaking into the world.

It was time to repent and believe.

Cross References

Matthew 3:2

> He said, “Change your hearts and lives, because the kingdom of heaven is near!”

Matthew 4:17

> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Change your hearts and lives, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”

Luke 10:9

> Heal the sick who are there, and tell them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”

Spiritual Principle

The message does not change; only the messengers do.

VIII. FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED

Matthew 10:8 — Freely Give

“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”

Jesus told them to do what He had been doing.

Heal the sick.

Cleanse the lepers.

Raise the dead.

Drive out demons.

Their message would be backed by power.

Then Jesus gave an important principle.

“Freely you have received; freely give.”

They did not pay for this power.

It was a gift.

So they must not charge people for it.

Ministry is not a business for personal profit.

Grace received must become grace given.

Cross References

Luke 9:2

> He sent them out to tell about the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Acts 3:6

> But Peter said, “I don't have any silver or gold, but I do have something else I can give you. In the name of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, stand up and walk!”

2 Kings 5:16

> Elisha answered, “As surely as the LORD lives, whom I serve, I will not accept anything.” Naaman kept asking him to take a gift, but Elisha refused.

Spiritual Principle

What God has given us freely, we must share freely.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Grace that is received but never given has not been fully understood.

IX. NO GOLD, SILVER, OR COPPER

Matthew 10:9 — Do Not Take Money

“Do not take gold, silver, or copper with you.”

Jesus told them not to bring money.

Not gold.

Not silver.

Not even small copper coins.

Men often carried their money in the folds of their belts.

Jesus said to leave it behind.

They were to depend completely on God.

Cross References

Mark 6:8

> He told them, “Take nothing for your trip except a walking stick. Take no bread, no bag, and no money in your belts.”

Luke 9:3

> He said to them, “Take nothing for your trip — no walking stick, no bag, no bread, no money, and not even an extra shirt.”

Luke 10:4

> Don't carry a money bag, a traveling bag, or extra sandals.

Spiritual Principle

God's workers must learn to depend on God's provision.

X. THE WORKER DESERVES HIS FOOD

Matthew 10:10 — Travel Light

“Do not take a traveling bag, an extra shirt, sandals, or a staff, for the worker deserves his food.”

Jesus told them to travel light.

No **traveling bag** for collecting supplies.

No **extra shirt.**

No extra **sandals** or **staff.**

Mark says they could take the one walking stick they had.

The point is that they should not pack extra supplies.

They were not going on a long, comfortable trip.

They were going on an urgent mission.

Then Jesus gave the reason:

“The worker deserves his food.”

The people who received their message would provide for them.

God would care for His workers through His people.

Cross References

Luke 10:7

> Stay in that house. Eat and drink what they give you, because a worker deserves to be paid.

1 Timothy 5:18

> The Scripture says, “Do not tie up the mouth of the ox while it is working in the grain,” and “A worker deserves to be paid.”

1 Corinthians 9:14

> In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the good news should get their living from this work.

Spiritual Principle

Those who serve God's people should be supported by God's people.

Application

Traveling light today can mean:

- Not being weighed down by possessions.
- Trusting God for what you need.
- Keeping your focus on the mission.
- Being ready to go when God calls.
- Supporting those who serve in the gospel.

XI. FIND A WORTHY HOUSE

Matthew 10:11 — Stay Until You Leave

“Whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy there and stay at their house until you leave.”

When they entered a town, they were to look for a **worthy** person.

This meant someone who was open to God and willing to welcome them.

Then they were to **stay** at that house.

They were not to move around looking for better food or a more comfortable home.

Contentment was part of their witness.

Cross References

Luke 9:4

> When you enter a house, stay there until it is time to leave that town.

Luke 10:7

> Stay in that house. Eat and drink what they give you, because a worker deserves to be paid. Don't move from house to house.

Acts 16:15

> Lydia and everyone in her house were baptized. Then she invited us, saying, “If you think I am a true believer in the Lord, come and stay in my house.” And she convinced us to stay.

Spiritual Principle

God's servants should be content with what He provides.

XII. GIVE YOUR GREETING

Matthew 10:12 — Entering the Home

“As you enter the home, give it your greeting.”

The usual Jewish greeting was **“Shalom,”** which means **“peace.”**

But for the apostles, it was more than politeness.

It was a blessing.

They were bringing the peace of God's kingdom into that home.

Cross References

Luke 10:5

> When you enter a house, first say, “Peace be on this house.”

1 Peter 5:14

> Greet each other with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

3 John 1:14

> I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus bring peace wherever they go.

XIII. LET YOUR PEACE REST ON IT

Matthew 10:13 — Or Return to You

“If the household is worthy, let your peace rest on it; if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.”

If the household welcomed them, God's peace would **rest on it.**

If the household rejected them, the peace would **return** to the apostles.

The blessing would not be wasted.

It would come back to them.

The people who rejected the message would lose the blessing.

Cross References

Luke 10:6

> If a person who loves peace is there, your blessing of peace will stay with him. If not, your blessing will come back to you.

Isaiah 52:7

> How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, who announces peace.

John 14:27

> I leave you peace. My peace I give you. I do not give it to you the way the world does. So don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

Spiritual Principle

God's peace is offered to all but received only by those who welcome it.

XIV. SHAKE THE DUST OFF YOUR FEET

Matthew 10:14 — When You Are Rejected

“If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.”

Not everyone would welcome them.

Some would refuse to listen.

Jesus told them what to do.

Leave.

Shake the dust off your feet.

When Jews came back from Gentile lands, they sometimes shook the dust off their feet.

It was a sign that they wanted no part of what was unclean.

For the apostles, it was a solemn sign.

It meant, **“We have done our part. The responsibility is now yours.”**

Cross References

Mark 6:11

> If any town refuses to welcome you or listen to you, leave it and shake its dust off your feet. This will be a warning to them.

Luke 9:5

> If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet as you leave that town. This will be a warning against them.

Acts 13:51

> So Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet against them and went to the city of Iconium.

Spiritual Principle

We are responsible to share the message, not to force people to accept it.

XV. MORE BEARABLE FOR SODOM

Matthew 10:15 — The Day of Judgment

“Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.”

Sodom and Gomorrah were famous for their wickedness.

God destroyed them with fire from heaven.

Yet Jesus says it will be **more bearable** for them on the day of judgment than for a town that rejects His message.

Why?

Because greater light brings greater responsibility.

Sodom never heard the Son of God's message.

These towns did.

To reject the King when He comes is more serious than any other sin.

Cross References

Luke 10:12

> I tell you, on the Judgment Day it will be better for the people of Sodom than for the people of that town.

Genesis 19:24

> Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah from the LORD out of the sky.

Matthew 11:24

> But I tell you, it will be better for the land of Sodom on the Judgment Day than for you.

Spiritual Warning

The more truth we hear, the more responsible we are.

Key Truth

There are degrees of judgment, and rejecting Christ is the most serious of all.

XVI. SHEEP AMONG WOLVES

Matthew 10:16 — Wise and Harmless

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

Jesus did not hide the danger.

Sheep among wolves.

Sheep are defenseless.

Wolves are dangerous.

The disciples would be sent into a hostile world.

So Jesus told them how to live.

Wise as serpents.

In the Bible, the serpent is known for being clever and careful.

Be smart.

Be alert.

Do not walk into danger foolishly.

Harmless as doves.

Doves are gentle and innocent.

Be pure.

Be honest.

Do not use evil methods.

Wisdom without innocence becomes trickery.

Innocence without wisdom becomes foolishness.

Jesus wants both.

Cross References

Luke 10:3

> Go now. I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

Genesis 3:1

> Now the snake was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made.

Romans 16:19

> I want you to be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil.

Spiritual Principle

God's people must be both shrewd and pure.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Be smart enough to see evil coming and pure enough to never take part in it.

XVII. COUNCILS AND SYNAGOGUES

Matthew 10:17 — Be on Your Guard

“Be on your guard, for you will be handed over to councils and flogged in synagogues.”

Jesus said, **“Be on your guard.”**

Persecution would come from religious leaders.

Councils were local Jewish courts.

Synagogues could carry out punishment by whipping.

The book of Acts records that the apostles were beaten for preaching about Jesus.

Paul says he was whipped five times by the Jews.

Cross References

Mark 13:9

> You must be careful. People will arrest you and take you to court and beat you in their synagogues. You will be forced to stand before governors and kings because of Me, to tell them about Me.

Acts 5:40

> They called the apostles in, beat them, and told them not to speak in the name of Jesus again. Then they let them go.

2 Corinthians 11:24

> Five times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes with a whip.

Spiritual Principle

Persecution sometimes comes from religious people.

XVIII. BEFORE GOVERNORS AND KINGS

Matthew 10:18 — A Testimony

“You will be brought before governors and kings because of Me, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.”

Persecution would also come from government leaders.

Governors were Roman officials.

Kings included rulers like Herod.

But Jesus showed them the purpose.

“As a testimony.”

Their trials would become opportunities.

They would stand before people who would never come to church.

And they would tell them about Jesus.

Paul did exactly this before governors like Felix and Festus and before King Agrippa.

Cross References

Acts 25:23

> The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great show... Then Festus ordered the soldiers to bring Paul in.

Acts 9:15

> But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He will tell about Me to Gentiles, to kings, and to the people of Israel.”

Mark 13:10

> But before these things happen, the good news must be told to all nations.

Spiritual Principle

God turns persecution into opportunity.

Key Truth

The courtroom can become a pulpit.

XIX. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO SAY

Matthew 10:19 — It Will Be Given to You

“But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,”

Standing before powerful rulers would be frightening.

These were ordinary men.

Many were fishermen.

They were not trained speakers.

But Jesus told them not to worry.

“You will be given what to say.”

God would give them the words they needed at the moment they needed them.

This is not a promise that preachers do not need to prepare sermons.

It is a promise for believers who are put on trial for their faith.

Cross References

Luke 12:11

> When you are brought into the synagogues before the leaders and other powerful people, don't worry about how to defend yourself or what to say.

Mark 13:11

> When you are arrested and put on trial, don't worry ahead of time about what you should say. Say whatever is given to you at that time, because it is not really you speaking. It is the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 4:12

> Now go! I will help you speak, and I will teach you what to say.

Spiritual Principle

God gives the right words at the right time to those who stand for Him.

XX. THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER

Matthew 10:20 — Speaking Through You

“for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

This is a wonderful promise.

The Spirit of your Father would speak through them.

They would not stand alone.

God Himself would be their defense.

Notice the words **“your Father.”**

Even in a courtroom, even under arrest, they were still children of a loving Father.

Cross References

Acts 4:8

> Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them...

Luke 21:15

> I will give you words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to stand against or argue with.

2 Samuel 23:2

> The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me. His word was on my tongue.

Spiritual Principle

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to speak boldly for Christ.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When you stand for Jesus, you never stand alone.

XXI. FAMILY BETRAYAL

Matthew 10:21 — Brother Against Brother

“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rise against parents and have them put to death.”

This is one of the most painful warnings Jesus gave.

Persecution would not only come from councils and kings.

It would come from **family.**

Brothers.

Fathers.

Children.

Throughout history, many believers have been rejected, reported, and even killed by their own families because they followed Jesus.

This still happens in many parts of the world today.

Cross References

Mark 13:12

> Brothers will turn against their own brothers and hand them over to be killed. Fathers will do the same to their children. Children will turn against their parents and have them killed.

Micah 7:6

> A son will not respect his father. A daughter will turn against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A person's enemies will be the people in his own family.

Luke 21:16

> Even your parents, brothers, relatives, and friends will turn against you, and they will kill some of you.

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus may cost the closest relationships.

Application

If you face rejection from family because of your faith:

- Keep loving them.
- Keep praying for them.
- Do not return evil for evil.
- Live in a way that honors Christ.
- Remember that you have a family in God's church.
- Trust God with what you cannot change.

XXII. HATED BY EVERYONE

Matthew 10:22 — Endure to the End

“You will be hated by everyone because of My name, but the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

“Hated by everyone.”

Not because they were bad people.

Because of My name.

The world hated Jesus.

So it would hate those who carry His name.

But Jesus gave a promise.

“The one who endures to the end will be saved.”

Endurance does not earn salvation.

Endurance is the evidence of salvation.

True faith keeps going.

It does not quit when life gets hard.

Cross References

Mark 13:13

> All people will hate you because you follow Me. But those who keep their faith until the end will be saved.

John 15:18

> If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first.

Daniel 12:12

> Blessed is the one who waits and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.

Spiritual Principle

Faith that is real will last.

Key Truth

It is not how you start, but how you finish.

XXIII. FLEE TO ANOTHER TOWN

Matthew 10:23 — Before the Son of Man Comes

“When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

Jesus gave practical advice.

When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another.

They did not need to stay and die needlessly.

Running from persecution is not always cowardice.

It can be a way to keep spreading the message.

In Acts, persecution scattered believers, and everywhere they went, they preached.

Then Jesus said something hard to understand.

“You will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

Bible teachers have understood this in different ways.

Some see it as a reference to Jesus' resurrection and His coming in power.

Some see it as the judgment on Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Some see it as His second coming, meaning the mission to Israel will continue until He returns.

What is clear is that the mission would not be finished quickly.

The work would continue until Jesus comes.

Cross References

Acts 8:1

> On that day the church in Jerusalem began to be persecuted, and all the believers except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Acts 14:6

> When Paul and Barnabas learned about this, they ran away to Lystra and Derbe, cities in Lycaonia, and the area around them.

Matthew 24:34

> I tell you the truth, the people living now will not die before all these things happen.

Spiritual Principle

Persecution can scatter the church, but it cannot stop the gospel.

XXIV. THE STUDENT AND THE TEACHER

Matthew 10:24 — Not Above the Master

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master.”

Jesus now explains why persecution will come.

A student is not greater than his teacher.

A servant is not greater than his master.

If the world mistreated Jesus, His followers should expect the same.

We should not be surprised when we are treated the way our Master was treated.

Cross References

Luke 6:40

> A student is not better than his teacher. But when he has been fully trained, he will be like his teacher.

John 13:16

> I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master. A messenger is not greater than the one who sent him.

John 15:20

> Remember what I told you: “A servant is not greater than his master.” If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus share in His rejection.

XXV. CALLED BEELZEBUL

Matthew 10:25 — Like Their Teacher

“It is enough for students to be like their teacher, and servants like their master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of His household!”

The goal of a student is to become **like the teacher.**

For the disciples, that would include being treated like Jesus.

Beelzebul was a name for Satan.

It means something like **“lord of the house”** or **“lord of the flies.”**

In Matthew 9:34, the Pharisees said Jesus drove out demons by the prince of demons.

They called Jesus the devil's servant.

If they called the Master of the house **Beelzebul**, they would call His servants even worse names.

Cross References

Matthew 12:24

> When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “This man uses the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons, to force demons out of people.”

Mark 3:22

> The teachers of the law who came from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul in Him! He uses the power of the ruler of demons to force demons out of people.”

Matthew 9:34

> But the Pharisees said, “He uses the power of the ruler of demons to force demons out.”

Spiritual Principle

Being insulted for Christ is a sign that we are becoming like Christ.

Key Truth

The goal of every disciple is to become like the Master, even in suffering.

XXVI. NOTHING HIDDEN

Matthew 10:26 — Do Not Be Afraid

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be made known.”

Three times in this passage Jesus says, **“Do not be afraid.”**

This is the first.

Why should they not fear?

Because the truth will come out.

Their enemies might lie about them.

They might be falsely accused.

But one day, God will reveal everything.

The truth about Jesus will be known.

The truth about His followers will be known.

The truth about their enemies will be known.

Cross References

Luke 12:2

> Everything that is hidden will be shown, and everything that is secret will be made known.

Mark 4:22

> Everything that is hidden will be made known, and every secret thing will be brought out into the open.

1 Corinthians 4:5

> So don't judge anything before the right time. Wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light the things that are hidden in darkness, and He will show the secret purposes of people's hearts.

Spiritual Principle

God will one day reveal the whole truth.

XXVII. SPEAK IN THE LIGHT

Matthew 10:27 — Proclaim from the Housetops

“What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops.”

Jesus often taught His disciples privately.

Now they were to share that teaching publicly.

Speak in the light.

Proclaim from the housetops.

In Bible times, houses had flat roofs.

Important announcements were often shouted from rooftops so everyone could hear.

The disciples were not to keep the message secret.

They were to share it boldly.

Cross References

Luke 12:3

> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the light. What you have whispered in a closed room will be shouted from the housetops.

Luke 8:17

> Everything that is hidden will become clear, and every secret thing will be made known.

Habakkuk 2:2

> Write down the vision. Write it clearly on tablets so that a messenger can run with it.

Spiritual Principle

The truth Jesus gives us in private is meant to be shared in public.

XXVIII. FEAR THE RIGHT ONE

Matthew 10:28 — Body and Soul

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”

This is the second **“Do not fear.”**

People can kill the body.

But they cannot touch the soul.

Their power has a limit.

God's power has no limit.

He alone can **destroy both soul and body in hell.**

This kind of fear is not terror.

It is deep reverence and respect for God.

When we fear God rightly, we do not need to fear people.

Cross References

Luke 12:4

> I tell you, My friends, don't be afraid of people who can kill the body but after that can do nothing more to hurt you.

Isaiah 51:12

> I, I am the One who comforts you. Why are you afraid of people, who die? Why are you afraid of people who are only like grass?

James 4:12

> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge. He is the only One who can save and destroy. So who are you to judge your neighbor?

Spiritual Principle

The fear of God frees us from the fear of people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear God, and you will fear nothing else.

XXIX. TWO SPARROWS

Matthew 10:29 — Not One Falls

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s care.”

Sparrows were the cheapest birds sold in the market.

Poor people bought them for food.

Two of them cost only one small coin.

Luke says five could be bought for two coins, so the fifth was thrown in for free.

Yet not one sparrow **falls to the ground** without the Father knowing and caring.

If God watches over sparrows, He certainly watches over His children.

Cross References

Luke 12:6

> Five sparrows are sold for only two pennies, but God does not forget any of them.

Psalm 84:3

> Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow has a nest for herself, near Your altars, LORD who commands armies.

Psalm 50:11

> I know every bird on the mountains, and every animal in the field is Mine.

Spiritual Principle

Nothing happens outside the Father's care.

XXX. EVERY HAIR NUMBERED

Matthew 10:30 — God Knows the Details

“Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

Most people do not know how many hairs are on their head.

But God does.

He knows every detail of our lives.

Nothing about us is too small for His attention.

This does not mean believers will never suffer.

Jesus has just said they will be persecuted and some will die.

But it means nothing will happen to them that their Father does not know about and hold in His hands.

Cross References

Luke 12:7

> God even knows how many hairs are on your head. So don't be afraid. You are worth much more than many sparrows.

Luke 21:18

> But not one hair on your head will be lost.

1 Samuel 14:45

> As surely as the LORD lives, not one hair from his head will fall to the ground.

Spiritual Principle

God's care for us reaches every detail of our lives.

XXXI. WORTH MORE THAN SPARROWS

Matthew 10:31 — Do Not Be Afraid

“So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

This is the third **“Do not be afraid.”**

Jesus draws the conclusion.

If God cares for sparrows, and He does, then He cares far more for you.

You are worth more than many sparrows.

People are made in God's image.

Believers are His children.

God values you more than you can imagine.

Cross References

Luke 12:24

> Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest, and they don't have storerooms or barns. Yet God feeds them. And you are worth much more than birds.

Psalm 8:5

> You made people a little lower than the angels, and You crowned them with glory and honor.

Matthew 6:26

> Look at the birds in the air. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, but your Father in heaven feeds them. And you are worth much more than they are.

Spiritual Principle

Knowing our value to God takes away our fear.

Key Truth

The God who counts sparrows and hairs has not lost track of you.

XXXII. ACKNOWLEDGE ME

Matthew 10:32 — Before My Father

“Whoever acknowledges Me before others, I will acknowledge before My Father in heaven.”

To **acknowledge** Jesus means to openly say that you belong to Him.

It means not being ashamed of Him.

Jesus gives a wonderful promise.

If we acknowledge Him before people on earth, He will acknowledge us before His Father in heaven.

Imagine Jesus standing before the Father and saying, **“This one belongs to Me.”**

Cross References

Luke 12:8

> I tell you, if anyone says in front of others that he believes in Me, the Son of Man will say before the angels of God that this person belongs to Him.

Romans 10:9

> If you say with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Revelation 3:5

> I will never erase his name from the book of life. I will say that he belongs to Me before My Father and before His angels.

Spiritual Principle

Those who stand with Jesus on earth, Jesus will stand with in heaven.

XXXIII. DENY ME

Matthew 10:33 — Denied Before the Father

“But whoever denies Me before others, I will also deny before My Father in heaven.”

Now Jesus gives the other side.

To **deny** Jesus means to refuse to be identified with Him.

It means to turn away from Him to protect yourself.

This is a serious warning.

Jesus is speaking about a settled, final rejection.

Peter denied Jesus three times in a moment of fear.

But he repented and was restored.

There is forgiveness for those who fail and return.

But there is no hope for those who finally and completely reject Him.

Cross References

Luke 12:9

> But if anyone says in front of others that he does not know Me, he will be rejected before the angels of God.

2 Timothy 2:12

> If we keep going, we will also rule with Him. If we refuse to accept Him, He will refuse to accept us.

Mark 8:38

> If people are ashamed of Me and My teaching in this sinful and unfaithful generation, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Spiritual Warning

Being ashamed of Jesus has eternal consequences.

Key Truth

Peter's story shows that a moment of failure can be forgiven when we turn back to Jesus.

XXXIV. NOT PEACE BUT A SWORD

Matthew 10:34 — Jesus Divides

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

This sounds surprising.

Isn't Jesus the Prince of Peace?

Yes.

He brings peace with God.

He brings peace to the heart.

But His coming also brings **division.**

The **sword** here is not a weapon for fighting.

It is a picture of division.

When people meet Jesus, they must decide.

Some will follow Him.

Some will reject Him.

And that decision can divide even the closest relationships.

Cross References

Luke 12:51

> Do you think I came to give peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I came to divide it.

Ephesians 6:17

> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrews 4:12

> God's word is alive and working. It is sharper than the sharpest sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus brings peace to those who receive Him and division between those who receive Him and those who reject Him.

XXXV. A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER

Matthew 10:35 — Divided Families

“For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

Jesus quotes Micah 7:6.

In Micah's day, this described a time of great wickedness when families were torn apart.

Jesus says His coming will have a similar effect.

Not because He wants families to fight.

But because when one person follows Jesus and another rejects Him, they are going in different directions.

Cross References

Micah 7:6

> A son will not respect his father. A daughter will turn against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A person's enemies will be the people in his own family.

Luke 12:53

> A father and son will be divided. A mother and daughter will be divided. A mother-in-law and daughter-in-law will be divided.

Luke 12:52

> From now on, a family of five will be divided, three against two, and two against three.

Spiritual Principle

Faith in Jesus can divide even close families.

XXXVI. ENEMIES IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Matthew 10:36 — Members of Their Own Family

“A person’s enemies will be members of their own household.”

This is one of the hardest parts of following Jesus.

The opposition may not come from strangers.

It may come from the people who live in the same house.

This is a sad but honest warning.

Jesus Himself experienced this.

At one point, His own brothers did not believe in Him.

Cross References

Micah 7:6

> A son will not respect his father. A daughter will turn against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A person's enemies will be the people in his own family.

Job 19:13

> He has made my brothers turn away from me. My friends have become complete strangers.

Psalm 41:9

> Even my close friend, someone I trusted, who ate my bread, has turned against me.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus understands the pain of rejection by those closest to us.

XXXVII. LOVING JESUS MORE

Matthew 10:37 — Worthy of Me

“Anyone who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. Anyone who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”

Jesus makes a claim that only God could make.

He must be loved **more** than parents.

He must be loved **more** than children.

No mere teacher could ask for this.

Only God deserves first place in our hearts.

Jesus is not telling us to stop loving our families.

He commanded us to honor our parents.

He is telling us that our love for Him must be so great that, by comparison, every other love comes second.

When Jesus is first, we actually love our families better.

Cross References

Luke 14:26

> If anyone comes to Me but loves his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, or sisters — or even his own life — more than Me, he cannot be My follower.

Deuteronomy 33:9

> He said about his father and mother, “I do not think about them.” He did not recognize his brothers or claim his own children. He did this because he obeyed Your word and kept Your covenant.

Luke 9:59

> Jesus said to another man, “Follow Me.” But the man said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus must have first place, even above family.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When Jesus is first, every other love is put in its proper place.

XXXVIII. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Matthew 10:38 — Follow Me

“Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.”

This is the first time in Matthew that Jesus mentions **the cross.**

His listeners knew exactly what a cross meant.

The Romans crucified criminals.

A man carrying a cross was walking to his death.

He had no plans for tomorrow.

To **take up your cross** means to be willing to die to yourself.

To give up your own will.

To accept suffering and shame for Jesus' sake.

It is not just carrying a hard burden.

It is surrendering your whole life to Christ.

Cross References

Matthew 16:24

> Then Jesus said to His followers, “If anyone wants to follow Me, he must say no to himself, pick up his cross, and follow Me.”

Luke 14:27

> Whoever is not willing to carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My follower.

Mark 8:34

> Then Jesus called the crowd and His followers to Him and said, “If anyone wants to follow Me, he must say no to himself, pick up his cross, and follow Me.”

Spiritual Principle

Following Jesus means dying to self.

Application

Taking up your cross today can mean:

- Saying no to sinful desires.
- Obeying God when it costs you.
- Accepting rejection for your faith.
- Putting others' needs before your own.
- Surrendering your plans to God's will.
- Being willing to suffer for Christ.

XXXIX. LOSE YOUR LIFE TO FIND IT

Matthew 10:39 — The Great Exchange

“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.”

This is one of the great paradoxes of the Christian life.

The person who tries to hold on to his life for himself will lose it.

He may gain comfort, success, and safety.

But in the end, he will lose what matters most.

The person who gives up his life **for Jesus' sake** will find it.

He will find real life now.

And he will find eternal life forever.

Notice the words **“for My sake.”**

This is not about losing your life for any cause.

It is about losing it for Jesus.

Cross References

Matthew 16:25

> Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever gives up his life for Me will find it.

John 12:25

> Whoever loves his life will lose it. But whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Luke 17:33

> Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it. But whoever gives up his life will save it.

Spiritual Principle

The life we give to Jesus is the only life we truly keep.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot out-give Jesus; whatever you lose for Him, He gives back far greater.

XL. WHOEVER WELCOMES YOU WELCOMES ME

Matthew 10:40 — Welcoming the One Who Sent Me

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes Me, and anyone who welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me.”

Now Jesus turns to those who receive His messengers.

The apostles were sent by Jesus.

Jesus was sent by the Father.

So when someone welcomes a messenger of Jesus, they are welcoming Jesus.

And when they welcome Jesus, they are welcoming God Himself.

This shows how closely Jesus identifies with His people.

Cross References

John 13:20

> I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send also accepts Me. And whoever accepts Me also accepts the One who sent Me.

Luke 10:16

> Whoever listens to you listens to Me. Whoever refuses to accept you refuses to accept Me. And whoever refuses to accept Me refuses to accept the One who sent Me.

Galatians 4:14

> You welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus Himself.

Spiritual Principle

How we treat God's servants is how we treat God.

XLI. A PROPHET'S REWARD

Matthew 10:41 — A Righteous Person's Reward

“Whoever welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.”

Not everyone is called to be a prophet or a traveling preacher.

But everyone can share in their reward.

How?

By welcoming and supporting them.

The widow of Zarephath fed Elijah.

The woman of Shunem made a room for Elisha.

Both received great blessings from God.

Those who support God's work share in God's reward.

Cross References

1 Kings 17:9

> Go to Zarephath in Sidon and live there. I have commanded a widow there to take care of you.

2 Kings 4:8

> One day Elisha went to Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she begged him to stay and eat. So whenever Elisha passed by, he stopped there to eat.

1 Corinthians 3:8

> The one who plants and the one who waters have the same purpose. And each will be rewarded for his own work.

Spiritual Principle

Those who support God's servants share in God's reward.

Key Truth

Not everyone goes, but everyone can help those who go.

XLII. A CUP OF COLD WATER

Matthew 10:42 — Not One Reward Lost

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is My disciple, truly I tell you, that person will not lose their reward.”

Jesus ends the chapter with a tender promise.

Even the smallest kindness matters.

A cup of cold water.

In the hot, dry land of Israel, cold water was a precious gift.

But it was also something almost anyone could give.

Jesus calls His followers **“little ones.”**

They were not powerful or important in the world's eyes.

But anyone who helps them **because they are His disciples** will be rewarded.

God does not forget the smallest act of love done for Jesus' sake.

Cross References

Mark 9:41

> I tell you the truth, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will truly get his reward.

Matthew 25:40

> The King will answer, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least important of My brothers and sisters, you did for Me.”

Hebrews 6:10

> God is fair. He will not forget the work you did and the love you showed for Him by helping His people, and you are still helping them.

Spiritual Principle

No act of kindness done for Jesus is too small to be rewarded.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Heaven keeps a record of every cup of water given in Jesus' name.

XLIII. SEVEN GREAT LESSONS FROM MATTHEW 10

1. Jesus Equips His Disciples

He gives them authority to heal, deliver, and proclaim the kingdom.

Principle:

Jesus never sends us without first equipping us.

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2. The Mission Is Urgent

They are called to go simply, depending on God's provision.

Principle:

Travel light and trust God for what you need.

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3. Persecution Is Certain

Following Christ means facing opposition, betrayal, and hatred.

Principle:

If they persecuted the Master, they will persecute His servants.

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4. Endurance Is Required

Salvation is promised to those who remain faithful until the end.

Principle:

Real faith keeps going.

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5. Fear God, Not Man

Human threats may harm the body, but only God rules over the soul.

Principle:

The fear of God sets us free from the fear of people.

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6. Discipleship Is Costly

It requires total loyalty, even above family and self.

Principle:

Jesus must come first, or He does not truly come at all.

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7. God Rewards the Smallest Act of Kindness

Even giving a cup of water in Christ's name has eternal value.

Principle:

Nothing done for Jesus is ever wasted.

XLIV. THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Jesus chose a surprising group of men.

Simon Peter

A fisherman, bold and quick to speak, who became a leader of the early church.

Andrew

Peter's brother, who brought others to Jesus.

James

Son of Zebedee, the first apostle to die for his faith.

John

Brother of James, who wrote a Gospel, three letters, and Revelation.

Philip

From Bethsaida, who brought Nathanael to Jesus.

Bartholomew

Probably the same man as Nathanael.

Thomas

Who doubted, then confessed, “My Lord and my God!”

Matthew

The tax collector who wrote this Gospel.

James son of Alphaeus

Little is known about him.

Thaddaeus

Also called Judas son of James.

Simon the Zealot

Who once wanted to overthrow Rome.

Judas Iscariot

Who betrayed Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus chose fishermen, a tax collector, a political rebel, and ordinary men, and through them He changed the world.

XLV. THREE TIMES “DO NOT BE AFRAID”

Jesus gave three reasons not to fear in verses 26–31.

The Truth Will Come Out (Verse 26)

Nothing hidden will stay hidden.

God will reveal the truth.

People's Power Is Limited (Verse 28)

They can kill the body, but not the soul.

Only God has final authority.

You Are Valuable to God (Verse 31)

God cares for sparrows and counts your hairs.

You are worth more than many sparrows.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's truth, God's power, and God's care are the cure for fear.

XLVI. THE COST AND THE REWARD

Matthew 10 is honest about both the cost and the reward of following Jesus.

The Cost

- Leaving comfort behind.
- Facing rejection.
- Being arrested and beaten.
- Being hated because of Jesus.
- Division in families.
- Taking up a cross.

- Losing your life.

The Reward

- The Spirit speaking through you.
- The Father's care for every detail.
- Being acknowledged by Jesus before the Father.
- Finding true life.
- Salvation for those who endure.
- Reward for even the smallest kindness.

Key Truth

The cost of following Jesus is high, but the reward is far greater.

XLVII. WHAT MATTHEW 10 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

Matthew 10 presents Jesus as:

The One with All Authority

He gives authority to His followers.

The Sender

He sends His apostles into the harvest.

The Master and Teacher

His servants will be treated as He was treated.

The One Who Acknowledges

He will speak for His people before the Father.

The One Who Divides

People must choose for or against Him.

The One Who Deserves First Place

He must be loved above all others.

The One Who Was Sent by the Father

To welcome Him is to welcome God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Jesus who sends us out is the Jesus who goes with us, speaks for us, and rewards us.

XLVIII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

A disciple is a learner or follower.

An apostle is one who is sent with authority as a messenger.

The Twelve were both disciples and apostles.

Question 2

Why did Jesus choose twelve apostles?

The number twelve reflects the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus was forming a new people of God built around Himself.

Question 3

Why did Jesus tell the apostles not to go to the Gentiles or Samaritans at first?

God's plan was for the good news to go first to Israel.

After His resurrection, Jesus sent His followers to all nations.

This first mission was limited in time and place.

Question 4

What does “Freely you have received; freely give” mean?

The apostles received their power and the message as a free gift.

They were not to charge for it.

What God gives freely, we should share freely.

Question 5

Why did Jesus tell them to travel without money or extra supplies?

To teach them to depend on God.

To keep them focused on the urgent mission.

And to let God provide for them through the people who welcomed them.

Question 6

What did shaking the dust off their feet mean?

It was a solemn sign that they had done their part.

The responsibility for rejecting the message now belonged to those who refused it.

Question 7

Why would it be more bearable for Sodom than for a town that rejected the apostles?

Because greater light brings greater responsibility.

Those who reject the message of the King are more accountable than those who never heard it.

Question 8

What does it mean to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves?

It means being smart and alert to danger, while staying pure and honest.

We need both wisdom and innocence.

Question 9

What does Jesus promise to those who are put on trial for Him?

He promises that the Spirit of the Father will give them the words to say.

They will not stand alone.

Question 10

Why should Christians fear God and not people?

People can only harm the body.

God has authority over both body and soul forever.

When we fear God rightly, we are set free from the fear of people.

Question 11

What do the sparrows and the numbered hairs teach us?

God cares about the smallest details of His creation.

If He cares for sparrows, He cares far more for His children.

Question 12

What does Jesus mean by bringing a sword instead of peace?

The sword is a picture of division.

When people must decide about Jesus, some follow Him and some reject Him.

This can divide even families.

Question 13

What does it mean to take up your cross?

It means being willing to die to yourself.

It means surrendering your own will and accepting suffering for Jesus' sake.

Question 14

What does Jesus promise to those who help His followers?

They will share in the reward.

Even a cup of cold water given to a disciple will not go unrewarded.

Question 15

What should Matthew 10 change about the way Christians live today?

Matthew 10 should cause believers to live:

- Ready to be sent by Jesus.
- Sharing freely what they have received.
- Depending on God's provision.
- Wise and pure in a hostile world.
- Bold in speaking about Jesus.

- Fearing God instead of people.
- Confident in the Father's care.
- Putting Jesus above every other love.
- Willing to take up their cross.
- Supporting those who serve in the gospel.

XLIX. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Matthew 10 asks several important questions.

Am I Spending Time with Jesus Before Trying to Work for Jesus?

Am I Willing to Be Sent?

Am I Sharing Freely What God Has Given Me?

What Am I Carrying That Is Slowing Me Down?

Am I Living Wisely and Purely in a Hostile World?

Am I Afraid of What People Think of Me?

Do I Believe God Cares About the Details of My Life?

Am I Ashamed of Jesus in Any Area of My Life?

Is Anyone or Anything More Important to Me Than Jesus?

Have I Taken Up My Cross?

How Can I Support Those Who Serve in the Gospel?

L. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The Sparrow and the Sword”

In Matthew 10, Jesus speaks about two very different things.

A **sword.**

And a **sparrow.**

The sword shows the cost of following Him.

It means division, rejection, persecution, and even death.

Jesus does not hide it.

He does not make discipleship sound easy.

The sparrow shows the care of the Father.

Not one sparrow falls without Him.

Every hair is counted.

You are worth more than many sparrows.

This creates a powerful principle.

Following Jesus means living between the sword and the sparrow.

The world may turn against us.

But the Father never will.

The cost is real.

But the care is greater.

Principle:

The same Jesus who warns us of the sword reminds us of the sparrow — the cost is high, but the Father's care is higher.

LI. FINAL APPLICATION

Matthew Chapter 10 begins with a prayer answered.

Jesus told His disciples to pray for workers.

Now He sends them.

Twelve ordinary men.

Fishermen.

A tax collector.

A political rebel.

Men we know a lot about.

Men we know almost nothing about.

And one who would betray Him.

Jesus gave them His authority.

He gave them His message.

He told them to go with almost nothing.

He told them the truth.

They would be sheep among wolves.

They would be arrested.

They would be beaten.

They would be hated.

Their own families might turn against them.

But He also told them:

Do not be afraid.

The Spirit will speak through you.

Your Father sees every sparrow.

Every hair on your head is counted.

I will acknowledge you before My Father.

Matthew 10 therefore reminds us:

Following Jesus is costly.

But it is worth it.

Every disciple must take up a cross.

Every disciple must put Jesus first.

Every disciple will face opposition.

But no disciple is ever forgotten.

The mission of Jesus did not begin with:

Powerful leaders.

Large resources.

Or a safe road.

It began with:

Ordinary people.

Given His authority.

Sent into a dangerous world.

And held in the Father's hand.

The same call still stands:

Go.

Proclaim the kingdom.

Give freely.

Trust God's provision.

Do not be afraid.

Acknowledge Jesus before others.

Take up your cross.

Welcome His servants.

Give a cup of cold water in His name.

And until He returns:

Keep going.

Keep enduring.

Keep confessing Him.

Keep trusting the Father's care.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for answering the prayer for workers.

Thank You that Jesus calls ordinary people and sends them out with His authority.

Lord Jesus, call us to Yourself before You send us out.

Help us spend time with You so that we can serve You well.

Thank You for all that we have freely received.

Teach us to give freely to others.

Help us travel light and trust You to provide.

Make us wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

When we face rejection, help us respond with grace.

When we are mocked or opposed because of Your name, give us courage.

Remind us that we will never stand alone.

Thank You that Your Spirit gives us the words we need.

Strengthen believers around the world who are suffering for Your name.

Comfort those who have been rejected by their own families.

Help us endure to the end.

Free us from the fear of people.

Teach us to fear You and trust You.

Thank You that not one sparrow falls without You.

Thank You that every hair on our heads is counted.

Thank You that we are worth more than many sparrows.

Give us courage to acknowledge You before others.

Forgive us for the times we have been ashamed of You.

Take first place in our hearts, above every other love.

Help us take up our cross and follow You.

Teach us that the life we give to You is the only life we truly keep.

Help us welcome and support those who serve You.

And let us never think any kindness done in Your name is too small.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.” — Matthew 10:39

Central Truth

Jesus sends His followers into a hostile world with His authority and message, calling them to fearless, costly loyalty and promising His care and reward to all who are faithful.

Matthew 10 in One Sentence

Jesus gives authority to His twelve apostles and sends them to the lost sheep of Israel, warning them of persecution, calling them to fear God rather than people, to love Him above all, and to take up their cross, while promising the Father's care and a reward for even the smallest kindness done in His name.