**Matthew 10-12 -** October 4th

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

**10**Jesus called his twelve (12) disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

**2**These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; **3**Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; **4**Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**5**These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. **6**Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. **7**As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ **8**Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

**9**“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts - **10**no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. **11**Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. **12**As you enter the home, give it your greeting. **13**If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. **14**If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. **15**Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

**16**“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. **17**Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. **18**On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. **19**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, **20**for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

**21**“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. **22**You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **23**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.

**24**“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. **25**It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

**26**“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. **27**What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. **28**Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29**Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. **30**And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31**So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

**32**“Whoever acknowledges ME before others, I will also acknowledge before MY Father in heaven. **33**But whoever disowns ME before others, I will disown before MY Father in heaven. **34**“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35**For I have come to turn “‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law - **36** a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

**37**“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38**Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39**Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

**40**“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41**Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. **42**And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Jesus and John the Baptist

**11**After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. **2**When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples **3**to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

**4**Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **5**The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. **6**Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

**7**As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? **8**If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. **9**Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10**This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

**11**Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. **12**From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. **13**For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. **14**And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. **15**Whoever has ears, let them hear.

**16**“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

**17**“‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.’

**18**For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ **19**The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

Woe on Unrepentant Towns

**20**Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. **21**“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. **22**But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. **23**And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. **24**But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

The Father Revealed in the Son

**25**At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. **26**Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. **27**“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

**28**“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

**12**At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. **2**When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

**3**He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4**He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread - which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. **5**Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? **6**I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. **7**If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. **8**For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

**9**Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, **10**and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

**11**He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? **12**How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

**13**Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. **14**But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

God’s Chosen Servant

**15**Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. **16**He warned them not to tell others about him. **17**This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

**18**“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
**19**He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.
**20**A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory. **21** In his name the nations will put their hope.”

Jesus and Beelzebul

**22**Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. **23**All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

**24**But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.”

**25**Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. **26**If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? **27**And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. **28**But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**29**“Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

**30**“Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. **31**And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. **32**Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

**33**“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. **34**You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. **35**A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. **36**But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. **37**For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

The Sign of Jonah

**38**Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

**39**He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. **40**For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **41**The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. **42**The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

**43**“When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. **44**Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. **45**Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

**46**While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. **47**Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

**48**He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” **49**Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. **50**For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”