

Lecture 13 – Matthew 10-11: Kingdom Proclamation & Response

“If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.” Matthew 10:14 (NIV)

Key Terms

*Ministry models: “soon trained” & “well fed”

Objective

*To understand the structure of Matthew 10-11

Lead Questions

*What do you think are the goals of ministry? Explain and support your ideas from Scripture.

*In what sense are all believers to be involved in “the ministry”? In what ways are you being prepared as a worker and being used to prepare workers for the harvest?

Matthew 10-11: Kingdom Proclamation & Response

I. Matthew 10-11 in the Structure of Matthew

Matthew 4:23-9:25, Word & work unified

A. Where we stand in the drama of Matthew: mission and conflict

1. Stiffer opposition from Jewish leaders near end of Galilean ministry (9:3, 11, 34).
2. Crowds as amiable unbelievers. Yet Jesus feels compassion for them (9:36).

B. Turning point in Matthew (9:35)

1. In Galilee, enthusiastic but fruitless crowds
2. Jesus sends workers into harvest, with no illusions.
3. Lack of response becomes more overt in Matthew 11.

C. Life issues for Matt 10

1. Jesus stays with the crowds, the people.
2. Motivating people for the ministry: guilt and fear vs. seeing the need and praying.
3. Two models of training for ministry: “soon trained” and “well fed.”

Matt 9:37-38 is a popular verse used by pastors and teachers to inspire believers to evangelistic ministry. Beginning with the context of this verse, argue why this is or is not a proper use of this verse, and how our understanding of this teaching should be informed by the reaction of the crowds to Jesus’ words.

II. Discourse #2, Mission and Martyrdom in Matthew 10

A. The need of workers (9:35-38)

1. Sheep without a shepherd
2. Harvest imagery - possible ambiguity. Jesus predicts substantial resistance.

B. The call of the workers (10:1-4)

C. The destination of the workers (10:5-6)

1. “Do not go to the Gentiles” apparently contradicts Matthew 28, etc.
2. Principles for interpreting texts that resist literal interpretation
 - a. Determine original meaning of the text. Does original culture or language shed light?
 - b. Has the redemptive-historical situation changed?
 - c. Find and verify the underlying principle. (Consult parallel Scriptures)
3. Why does Jesus forbid them to go to Gentiles?
4. What is the general principle for sending workers?

D. Instruction of workers (10:7-15)

1. Message: word and work
 2. Provision
 3. Urgency
 - E. Workers' condition and protection (10:16-26)
 1. Shrewd/innocent tension
 2. Trial and protection
 - F. Theme: the student as his teacher
 1. Many parallels between Jesus' conduct during missions and charge to 12
 - a. Jews first
 - b. Message: kingdom
 - c. Give freely
 - d. Provision: take none
 - e. Shrewd and innocent
 - f. Persecution
 2. Conformity to Christ as a goal and theme in Matthew, Luke, John. "It is enough!"
 3. Are we expected to carry on the mission in turn?
 - G. The decisions of workers (10:27-32)
 1. Workers' sacrifice and reward. The cost of discipleship (10:33-42)
- III. The Response to Jesus' Mission. What Will Become of the Ministry Handed to the Twelve?
- A. Ministry has failure, a little success, real opposition
 - B. Matthew 9:36-10:42 have already hinted that results are in doubt
 - C. Jesus and John the Baptist, 11:2-19. Doubt of John and unbelief of leaders compared
 1. John's questions and doubts; Jesus' gentle answers
 2. See also the disciples' doubts, and Jesus' patience
 3. The difference between doubt and unbelief
 - D. Parallels between reception of Jesus and John 11:16-24
 - E. The root of the matter, 11:25-30. The truth hidden, yet an invitation given
 - F. Controversies of Matthew 12 develop these themes.