

**“Sent Out Part I – Teambuilding 101”**

**Matthew 10v1-15**

**Scripture Ref: 1 Cor 1:26-27; Gen 22:18; Zech 2:10; 1 Cor 12:7-11; Matt 10:41-42**

- 1. Next – 4-part series: “Ambassadors for Christ”**
  - a. Part I – Teambuilding 101**
  - b. Part II – Great Expectations**
  - c. Part III – Fear and Division**
  - d. Part IV – Our Reward**
  
- 2. Any of you remember being a kid, and gathering up for the neighborhood game of football or baseball?**
  - a. I remember how the drill went – you’d have two ‘team captains’, usually the best athletes, and then they would start the agonizing process of picking the teams.**
  - b. If you were a good player, you got picked right away – first or second round draft picks!**
  - c. But if you were more towards the shallow end of the athletic gene pool, then it might take a little longer to find out which team got stuck with you... I mean which team you got to play on!**
  - d. And if you were the last – that was just horrible... especially when the two teams began to argue over which one had to take you.**
  - e. These events scarred some people for life.**
  
- 3. Well, imagine you are Jesus, you have been praying, and you hear from your Heavenly Father that it’s time to send out the first evangelism team.**
  - a. What qualities would you look for?**
  - b. Maybe people who are assertive, confident, not too hard on the eyes, maybe people that were already popular, certainly having some ministry experience would be good.**
  
- 4. Here’s where we’re faced with a bit of a dilemma – I’m not sure I would have picked the guys Jesus picked!**

**The Twelve Apostles (AKA – Group voted “least likely to succeed in ministry)**

*(Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16)*

And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. 2 Now the names of the twelve **apostles** are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector;

James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

**5. The ‘chosen ones’**

- a. **Peter**: Peter is always named first, something that if it were me, I would for sure notice and enjoy!
  - i. And indeed, Peter was a leader amongst the apostles, he had a special place in the apostolic order.
  - ii. But Peter also had, shall we say, a “foot shaped mouth!”
  - iii. It’s been said the only time Peter stopped talking was to change feet – he had a habit of saying really dumb things!
  - iv. Maybe you see yourself in Peter: You have a big heart, and a big mouth to go with it! You always saying things that you wish you could retract!
  - v. But the Lord used Peter, and He changed him, from a person whose demeanor tossed about like the waves he plied as a fisherman, to the man we now know as “The Rock!”
- b. **Andrew** (Peter’s brother): Andrew was well known... as the little brother of Peter!
  - i. Maybe you feel like Andrew – you’re always in someone else’s shadow – an older brother or sister, someone else who seems to outshine you.
  - ii. Jesus chose someone you can relate to, Andrew, who was always in Peter’s shadow.
- c. **James**, the son of Zebedee, and John his brother: These two had a nick-name: the “sons of thunder”, because they had explosive tempers!
  - i. When one of the cities didn’t respond to Jesus message, then wanted to call down hell-fire and brimstone on the city!
  - ii. Maybe you can relate to these guys, because you have a tendency to fly off the handle.
- d. **Philip** and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas**: Bartholomew was the one who said “*can anything good come out of Nazareth*” when he heard about Jesus, kind of like Thomas the doubter.
  - i. These guys were the “Eeyore’s” of the group, always expecting bad things to happen!
  - ii. Maybe you can relate to these guys, and you’re a “glass half empty” person.
- e. **Matthew**: Basically Matthew was a skimmer, sort of like the Wall Street guys that we are seeing in the news that have made a ton of money while they ran their companies into the ground!

- i. Maybe your not a Wall Street ripoff, but perhaps you haven't had the highest moral standards in your own life.
  - f. **James** the son of Alphaeus, and **Lebbaeus**, whose surname was Thaddaeus"
    - i. James and Thaddaeus were known for... well... nothing really! We don't see anything about them in scripture.
    - ii. Maybe you feel like these guys, your shy and not really outspoken, you feel like no one notices you.
  - g. **Simon** the Cananite: Luke called Simon a "zealot"(Zelotes), in other words he was involved in a group that wanted to overthrow the Roman government.
    - i. Josephus tells us that the Zelotes were the extreme patriots. These were men who valued freedom above life itself, willing to sacrifice their own lives, or even see their own families martyred, in order that they might be free.
    - ii. Had Simon ran across Matthew in another setting, he might have wanted to take him out; he would have considered him a traitor!
  - h. **Judas**: The traitor who stole money from the groups money box!
- 6. So we have a situation where Jesus comes down from the mountain, and He is going to chose twelve men to send out on a very important mission, to spread the word that Jesus had arrived.
  - a. And who did He pick? The well-educated? The mover and shakers of the religious establishment? The up and coming rabbi's from the seminary?
  - b. NOPE! He picked a rag-tag bunch of renegades. People that would have been passed over by the "Apostle Selection Committee".
    - i. Just imagine if any church today decided to pick twelve members to go on a missions trip – who would we pick?
    - ii. Or pick twelve people to go and birth a new church plant in another area – who would we pick?
  - c. Well, Jesus picked twelve guys who are ... well... a lot like us!
- 7. If Jesus would pick these guys, invest in them, and send them out, that give me comfort that He could use someone like me, or someone like you!
  - a. And the secret is not that He picked these guys and took a wild gamble on them, but that He picked them and He empowered them!

*10:1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.*

- b. In other words, God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called!
- c. You might relate to one or more of the disciples, and you wonder if God can use you, and then answer to that is "YES!"

**1 Cor 1:26-27**

*For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;*

- 8. Next we see that Jesus didn't just turn them loose. He gave them some specific instructions and counsel, things we'll be looking at over the next few weeks.

**Basic Instructions**

**Go Where I Send You**

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- 9. Jesus gave the Apostles specific instructions to NOT go to the gentiles, but first to the Jews.
  - a. Now, there is a logical reason that we might ascribe this instruction to: If the Apostles went to the gentiles first, the Jews would not receive their message.
  - b. But the problem with that reason is that God knew that Israel would reject Christ, so to think Jesus was protecting them doesn't really make sense.
  - c. What does make sense is that God has a plan for all nations, and Israel is part of that plan.
- 10. God chose Israel to be His chosen nation, not because they are better or smarter, but that they would be the vehicle through which God would bless all nations:

*Gen 22:18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

- a. Their role in history is to be a living example of how God would make Himself known to all nations:

**Zech 2:10** "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD. 11 "Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

- b. They would be a living example of God's love, grace, mercy, and power to all mankind! (*if God will redeem those who rejected and crucified His Son, God will redeem anyone!*)
11. Jesus knew fully well that Israel would not accept Him as the Christ, but in accordance with God's plan He sent them first to "lost sheep of the house of Israel"
- a. The sad thing is that they were lost: God knew they were lost, but they didn't know they were lost!
  - b. *My trip to Ohio – via Bristol TN.*
  - c. Which is exactly the situation of every lost person in the world today – they don't know they are lost, if they did, they would come to Christ – but they don't know – so they don't
  - d. I guess someone needs to tell them...

### **Say What I Tell You**

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

12. Jesus sends these men out with a specific message: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand".
- a. That is an interesting message; It meant that the Kingdom of Heaven was *among them*, Jesus the Messiah had come,
    - i. I believe that had the Jews accepted Jesus Christ as Messiah, it would have ushered in the Kingdom of God – right then.
  - b. But of course, then didn't, they crucified Him, which God knew would happen, yet to fulfill God's plan Jesus brought this message to Israel.
13. And we too have a message, it's not "Jesus is among you" its now "Jesus came, died for our sins: Accept Him and He is *in you!*"
- a. The message is "it's possible for a man to have fellowship with God. (CHECK TIME)
  - b. You can come out of the kingdom of darkness. You can come into the kingdom of light.
  - c. You can have deliverance from the power of Satan, and you can know fellowship with God.
  - d. It is possible for that man who has been bound in the kingdom of darkness and death, that man that has been alienated by God

**because of his life after the flesh, it is possible for him to know the power of God's Spirit in his life.**

**Do What I Instruct You**

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

**14. Jesus empowered His Apostles to do miracles – to allow His power to flow through them to help those they came into contact with.**

- a. **These would have been impossible tasks were it not for his power!**
- b. **In the same way Jesus has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us for ministry.**
- c. **He has give us charis -**

**1 Cor 12:7-11**

*7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

- d. **Freely – Freely: In other words this power is not for sale (E.G. Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, the case of Naaman's leprosy 2 Kings 5)**

**Trust Me to Provide**

9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

**15. Here is where the hard part comes for some – trusting God to provide!**

- a. **I have a friend that moved to Raleigh about 10 years ago, and he was going into the ministry, and he was one of those “day traders” back in the late 90's when everyone was making money in the stock market.**
- b. **And he had amassed a small fortune, which he planned on supporting his family with as they ventured out into ministry. It was a perfect plan – he could totally focus on ministry with no financial worries!**
- c. **And right before they set out, he got wiped out – in one week he lost all of his holdings in a few bad trades.**

- d. **And he told me later it was one of the best things that every happened to him – because it forced him to trust the Lord for his provision!**

**16. We have a saying here at CCW: “Where God guides, God provides.”**

- a. **When God sends you out on a path, a mission, a journey, He will provide!**
- b. **We have found it to be true here – whenever God has led us on a venture, He has always provided the resources to get it done!**
- c. **If the resources are not there, we feel that God is not giving us permission to move.**

### **Leave the Results to Me**

11 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. 12 And when you go into a household, greet it. 13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

**17. When Jesus sent these guys out, they would go into a city, and look for a household that would take them in – someone ‘worthy’.**

- a. **Now, worthy doesn’t mean the family with the biggest house, or the most comfortable bedding, or the prettiest daughters!**
- b. **But a household that would be open, hospitable. And that household, Jesus says, bless them!**
- c. **Later Jesus will say:**

### ***Matt 10:41-42***

*41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.*

*42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

- d. **In other words, God sees when a person wants to bless a servant of the Lord, to support them in the ministry of the gospel.**
- e. **But if they give you a hard time, or their inhospitable, take the blessing back.**
- f. **I have seen it time and again – God will bless those who have a generous heart for His people!**

**18. “But what if they aren’t open to the gospel?” – Isn’t that our greatest fear when we’re sharing with someone, that they’ll think we’re weird?**

- a. Jesus tells His disciples, “don’t worry about the results, you just tell them the good news!”**
- b. And it’s the same message for us...**
- c. We are Ambassadors for Christ – sent out into a world that is lost, hurting, crippled by sin and suffering**
- d. And we have a message – The Kingdom of Heaven is IN you!**
- e. We as Christians are not responsible for the decisions people make, we are only accountable for bringing the message!**

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