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The Commission of the Twelve Apostles

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THE COMMISSION GIVEN TO THE TWELVE APOSTLES AND OTHERS BY JESUS CHRIST

Jesus seems to give instructions to three kinds of disciples, each group living at a different time.

- To former disciples, living in the time of Christ (Mt. 10:1-15)—
Jesus speaks to the disciples of His day:
 - A. The individuals (Mt. 10:2-4)—Here Matthew lists the names of the twelve apostles.
 - B. Their instructions (Mt. 10:2, 5-15)
 - 1. Their mission field (Mt. 10:5, 6): They are to go only to the lost sheep of Israel.
 - 2. Their mission (Mt. 10:1, 7-15):
 - a. To preach that God's Kingdom is near (Mt. 10:7)
 - b. To heal the sick, raise the dead, and cast out demons (Mt. 10:1, 8a): They are given authority to do these things.
 - c. To give freely (Mt. 10:8b): They are to give as freely as they have received.
 - d. To remain unburdened (Mt. 10:9, 10): They are not to take money or extra clothes with them.
 - e. To bless or curse each town upon leaving (Mt. 10:11-15): They are to bless worthy towns and curse unbelieving towns.
- To future disciples, living during the time of the Great Tribulation (Mt. 10:16-23)—
This is assumed, based on Jesus's statement in Mt. 10:23:
 - A. The enemies of God will hate them (Mt. 10:16-18, 23).
 - 1. Religious persecution (Mt. 10:16, 17): They will be handed over to courts and beaten in synagogues.
 - 2. Political persecution (Mt. 10:18): They will be called before governors and kings; this will give them a chance to witness.
 - 3. Family persecution (Mt. 10:21): Family members will betray each other.
 - 4. General persecution (Mt. 10:22, 23): Everyone will hate them because of their allegiance to Christ.
 - B. The Spirit of God will help them (Mt. 10:19, 20): He will give them the right words to say!
- To faithful disciples, living throughout church history (Mt. 10:24-42)—
Jesus speaks of discipleship and persecution:
 - A. The certainty (Mt. 10:24, 25): Just as He is persecuted, His disciples also will be.

B. The confidence (Mt. 10:26-31)

1. What people may do (Mt. 10:26-28): They may kill the body, but they cannot touch the soul.
2. What God will do (Mt. 10:29-31): He cares for both body and soul.

C. The conflict (Mt. 10:34-36): Faith in Christ may well turn a person's family against him or her!

D. The conditions (Mt. 10:37, 38):

1. The priority of our love for Christ (Mt. 10:37): We are to place Him even above our families!
2. The proof of our love for Christ (Mt. 10:38): We are to take up our cross and follow Him.

E. The compensation (Mt. 10:32, 33, 39-42)—

These are the benefits of true discipleship:

1. To be honored by the Son in the presence of the Father (Mt. 10:32, 33)
2. To fully gain one's life (Mt. 10:39)
3. To be given great rewards (Mt. 10:40-42)