

## **Giving Away the Kingdom: A Greater Mission**

I recently started a home project that I hoped would be a simple repair to a bathroom leak and dry rot in our floor. Unfortunately, as we opened up the floor we soon began to realize that the water damage was much worse than we had expected. I knew I needed help so we asked my brother-in-law who specializes in home repair to spend a couple days with us scoping out the problem. Again, the more we tore out – the project grew from patching the floor and replacing the shower to ripping out the entire flooring and replacing all the plumbing. We had to rent a jackhammer, add gravel filling and pour a new concrete floor. What began as a simple home repair turned into a major demolition and complete remodel of our bathroom. I could not have accomplished it without help from Glen, my wife's brother. Even then with his help, we both realized we needed more help to prepare and pour a new concrete floor. This would then need to be followed by another crew to rebuild and tile the shower area.

As the mission of Jesus grew – he also needed help to advance his kingdom so he appointed twelve disciples and then according to Luke another seventy to multiply his efforts and do what he was doing. Jesus led by example in Matthew 8 & 9 and then sent out his followers to do the same. This was the beginning of the *greater things* Jesus is expecting of all his disciples.

### **Journey Together:**

- 1). Describe a recent time in your life when you needed someone's help to complete a task.
- 2). Share one thing you have learned about helping others.
- 3). What do you like/dislike about asking for help?

### **Road Map:** Read Matthew 10

- 4). In Matthew 10 Jesus appoints twelve followers to join him as his disciples and to help advance his mission. What is so different about being a disciple of Rabbi Jesus?
- 5). How were they to go about their task? What were some of his specific instructions to them? What did he want them to do? What did Jesus provide for their success?

6). What message were they to share with people and how were they to deliver it? What things were to accompany their message and what did it have to do with Jesus mission?

7). What did they need most to carry out their mission? What were they to expect from others and why was it important to stay in one place instead of moving around from place to place?

8). What other instructions did Jesus give? How many of these instructions are still relevant today and how would you apply them?

9). Following Jesus example and giving away the kingdom as Jesus instructed his followers to do here in Matthew 10 is another core competency of our discipleship with Jesus. What are some ways you have been "giving away the kingdom recently"? What is standing in your way of this discipleship competency?

**Discipleship challenge:** Jesus is challenging us to care about others and proclaim his kingdom. Prayerfully ask God to show you the needs of others around you and how meeting their needs will advance God's kingdom. Joining Jesus mission and spreading the good news of his kingdom is the joy of discipleship with Jesus!

10). How can this group pray for you right now?

### **My Journey:**

- 1). How has God been using *Journey* in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?
- 2). How has God used you to advance his kingdom this week?
- 3). How can this group pray for you today?

### **Backstory:**

We could assume that the priority in following Jesus is right belief or right behavior – doctrine and lifestyle. When we model our life with God more from the Hebrew Exodus we might develop this perspective. The Israelites were transitioning from slavery to freedom and the number one priority was embracing a new identity and adopting a new lifestyle different from the Egyptians and the Canaanites. These are still a priority with the transition from the “present evil age” to “the kingdom of God,” in Jesus mission. However, one of the surprising things we are met with in Jesus’ model of discipleship is our bold and immediate witness.

This is illustrated by such common stories as the Woman at the Well (John 4) where the Samaritan woman is an immediate witness becoming a well of water welling up to eternal life for the people of Sychar. Then there is the demon possessed man chained up in the cemetery (Matthew 8). The exorcised man asked to join Jesus and His disciples, but Jesus instructed him to “go tell what great things God had done for him.”

In fact, the response to Jesus and his mission was so great in some circumstances that Luke refers to people taking the kingdom by force (Luke 16:16). The message of Jesus is so life changing and transformative that followers of Jesus are enlisted to be a witness right from the start. New lifestyle and instruction will come, but discipleship starts with their eager testimony of the difference Christ has made in their life.

Missing this important priority of discipleship training of Jesus throws us off balance. We can be stuck in the rut of learning and relearning the gospel without ever sharing it. Jesus is more interested that we practice our experience than our increase in biblical knowledge and information. Again, the greater life of the kingdom is more about the message we live and share than the theology we develop.

Jesus also reveals some practical points for sharing the message here in Matthew 10.

### **Bullet points for advancing the kingdom:**

1. Begin where you are and start with the people you know. (Don’t start with the Gentiles)
2. Proclaim a simple message. (“the Kingdom of God has come near to you!”)
3. Minister to people’s needs. (cast out demons, heal the sick—the kingdom is practical)
4. Travel light. (people need Jesus, not our clever resources and technology)
5. Partner with dependable people. (Stay in one house and work out from there)
6. Be careful. (Sheep among wolves)
7. Work smart (Shrewd as snakes, innocent as doves)
8. Speak up. (Holy Spirit will give you what to say)
9. Follow my example. (Like teacher – like student)
10. Don’t be afraid. (No one can harm your soul)

The third competency of discipleship under Rabbi Jesus leads to *A Greater Mission*. Discipleship without the goal to advance God’s kingdom is no discipleship at all!