A black and white, upside-down photograph of a city skyline with various skyscrapers and buildings. The image is mirrored vertically, creating a symmetrical effect.

MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 10

Jesus sends His disciples out on mission



Matthew 10:1-15

The disciples of Jesus are given the same mission

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The disciples are given the same mission

- Three chapters on the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7) and two chapters of healing and miracles (chapters 8–9).
- In chapter 10, Jesus sent out His first workers into the harvest.
- He chose twelve as His apostles: a significant number, symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel. He sent the 12 out only to the lost sheep of Israel (not to the Gentiles or Samaritans).



The disciples are given the same mission

- Here they are first called “apostles” - ones who are sent out.
- In our world today, an ambassador lives in an embassy.
- In the ancient world, an embassy was not a building.
- It was a group of people sent to another country as an envoy or delegation to make peace.



The disciples are given the same mission

- Ambassadors are sent as representatives of their kingdom with the full authority of the king who sent them.
- They work for his purposes, carry out his wishes, and act on his behalf.
- Jesus gave His disciples His authority to cast out demons and heal disease. The signs were to proclaim the kingdom of God.



The disciples are given the same mission

- Jesus commands His disciples to travel light.
- In the ancient world, travelers typically took a bag with a change of clothes, food and money.
- Jesus told them to take none of it, which would force them to rely on people's hospitality and God's provision.



The disciples are given the same mission

- Not even letting them take the bag would prohibit their begging, as some travelers did.
- They were also not allowed to receive any payment for their ministry (verse 8).
- No one could accuse them of doing this for money, but only freely giving what they had received from Jesus.



The disciples are given the same mission

- A staff was for self-protection, so not bringing one meant they would have to trust in God, for protection or not.
- Jesus did not promise them physical protection (verse 17).
- He knew He was sending them out as sheep among wolves.
- Some would receive their message with joy, others would not.



The disciples are given the same mission

- The disciples were not responsible for how people received their message, only how they gave it – in peace.
- They were to offer their message with peace.
- If people did not listen or receive it, they were to leave that town and “shake the dust off of their feet.”



The disciples are given the same mission

- Shake the dust off of their feet
- Jews who entered the temple shook the dust of the world off of their feet because they were entering a holy place.
- Jews traveling from Gentile lands shook the Gentile dust off their feet when they walked into the Holy Land, into God's kingdom.



The disciples are given the same mission

- Sodom and Gomorrah are the ultimate symbols of God's judgment, yet Jesus said those who rejected Him and rejected the Gospel would have it even worse on the Day of Judgment.
- This would have been a shocking statement for the disciples and would have made the seriousness of their mission real for them.
- The consequences of their mission were eternal.



Matthew 10:16-33

Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

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Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- The Old Testament often portrays God's people as sheep and God as their shepherd, rescuing them from those who abused them.
- Jesus Himself had just talked about them that way at the end of the last chapter (Matthew 9:36).
- Now He was intentionally sending His sheep out among the wolves.



Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- But as His ambassadors, they would be able to make it through, because the Holy Spirit would be working through them (verse 20).
- Disciples of Jesus should expect to be persecuted.
- Jesus said in the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount that they were blessed when they were persecuted for His sake, that they should rejoice in it (Matthew 5:10–12).



Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- Here He described more of what persecution would look like—arrest, flogging, betrayal by your own family, maybe even death.
- But Jesus told them not to fear.
- Not because He would protect them from harm or even save them from death, but because those who endure to the end would be saved (verse 22).



Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- Jesus pointed to our eternal destiny as our hope.
- Don't fear your physical death. It only happens once and then you have an eternity, either of eternal life or eternal destruction.
- Be more concerned about your eternal destiny than you are about your physical safety or your life.



Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- This is the context into which Matthew writes that the hairs on our heads are numbered and we are more valuable than sparrows.
- He teaches this in the middle of talking about persecution, death and eternal judgment.
- God's caring about us more than many sparrows doesn't mean He will protect us from all harm.



Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- In this passage, Jesus promised persecution for those who go out on mission.
- God might allow them to be arrested, flogged, or even killed, but we can be assured that whatever happens to us is not outside of God's care (verse 29).



Disciples of Jesus should expect persecution

- This is our hope in the face of persecution – our future inheritance in heaven (1 Peter 1:3–5).
- The kingdom is the pearl of great price. It is worth giving everything you have for, even your life.
- Paul wrote when he was in prison for his faith that “to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).



Matthew 10:34-42

Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

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Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- Jesus described a new reality where families would be divided by the Gospel.
- He demanded that people choose Him over their family.
- Jesus instituted a completely different kind of kingdom, with a completely different kind of army, fighting different kind of battles.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- This is a spiritual kingdom, not the physical kingdom of Israel.
- The citizens of this spiritual kingdom are based on faith, not geography or ethnicity.
- The Bible tells us these two kingdoms are diametrically opposed and in a constant spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10–18). Good versus evil, light versus darkness.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- But in God's kingdom, those people are not really our enemies.
- The principalities and powers, the forces of evil are the enemy.
- We are trying to save those people from that kingdom of darkness and bring them into God's kingdom of light (Colossians 1:13–14).



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- Jesus very much demands that we choose sides in this battle, even if it means we become enemies with our family (verses 34–37).
- This would have been a very difficult saying in their culture, where people were so interdependent on their families.
- A newly married couple didn't go out and live on their own; they lived with the husband's family.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- Family was everything and the entire society was built on it.
- Most saw honoring your parents as the highest social obligation.
- For Jesus to say they had to love Him more than father or mother was another statement of His divinity (verse 37).
- Only God was worthy of that kind of love.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- They were to love Him even more than their own lives.
- In Jesus' day, "taking up your cross" wasn't a metaphor; it actually referred to Roman crucifixions.
- We often think of it more symbolically, as carrying your burdens.
- But in their time, it literally referred to crucifixions.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- Jesus closed this section with a word about those who receive His apostles as they were sent out on mission.
- A cup of cold water was the most basic level of hospitality a person.
- In the ancient world even the poorest person was obligated to give a cup of water.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- If they rejected the disciples, they rejected God. If they received the disciples, they received God.
- Jesus said something similar in the parable about the sheep and the goats – whatever you do to the least of these, you do it to Him.
- This would have assured the disciples that whatever happened to them would be either rewarded or punished by God.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- At the end of Matthew, Jesus expanded the mission to all of His disciples of all times, not just the Twelve.
- He expanded the mission field to every nation on earth, not just Israel (Matthew 28:18–20).
- So, we can easily apply the principles of this mission to our own mission to share the Gospel today.



Discipleship is putting Christ above all else

- It is our mission to share the Gospel with all people everywhere we go, both through our words and our actions.
- The Holy Spirit is with us and will give us the power to share the message.
- We are to plant the seed and water the seed, but it is God who makes it grow (1 Corinthians 3).

Application:
Evangelism and Outreach

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Salt and Light

- We can be a light to others and thereby attract them to the gospel.
- They may not believe they are sinful. They may not believe they need a savior.
- But they may be attracted to us because we are a light shining in the darkness.
- Living a consistent, biblical lifestyle can be attractive to others.

Salt and Light

- In order to be effective, people must actually see the light.
- It is important that our lives testify to the truthfulness of the gospel to others.
- Perhaps you have heard the statement:
- “Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read.”

Matthew 28:18-20

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Great Commission

- It comes at the end of the gospel of Matthew and marks the beginning of the church.
- It is Christ's personal instruction for Christians to go into the world.
- Jesus has all authority and therefore commands us to go and make disciples of all nations.

Great Commission

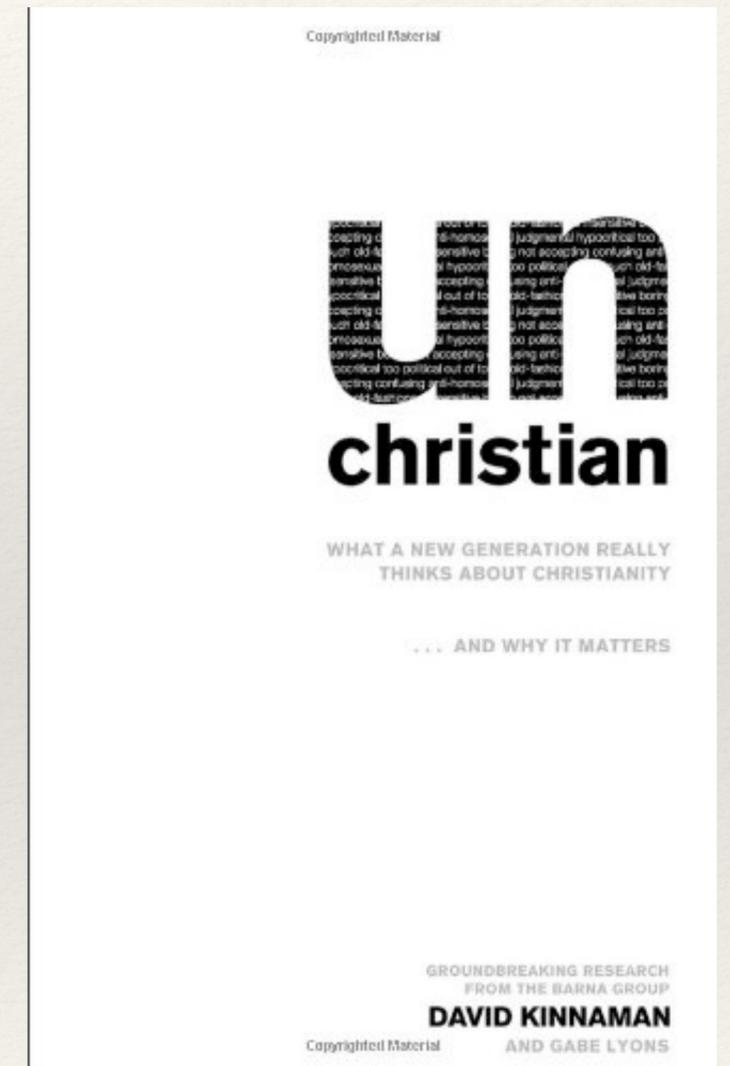
- Christ's command is not just for missionaries.
- We have a mission field where we live.
- He has called for us to share the good news with those around us.
- We are commanded to witness to them.

Great Commission

- Why don't more Christians share their faith?
- Many Christians feel intimidated about sharing their faith because they feel inadequate.
- You don't need to know all the answers to every question before witnessing to another person.

Challenges

- The book, *unChristian*, summarizes why young outsiders do not accept Christianity.
- The surveys identified six areas of their perception about evangelical or born-again Christians:
- Hypocritical, get saved, anti-homosexual, sheltered, too political, judgmental.



1. Hypocritical

- Perception: Christians say one thing but live something entirely different.
- New perception: Christians are transparent about their flaws and act first, talk second.

2. Get Saved

- Perception: Christians are insincere and concerned only with converting others.
- New perception: Christians cultivate relationships and environments where others are transformed by God.

3. Anti-Homosexual

- Perception: Christians show contempt for gays and lesbians.
- New perception: Christians show compassion and love to all people, regardless of their lifestyle.

4. Sheltered

- Perception: Christians are boring, unintelligent, old-fashioned, and out of touch with reality.
- New perception: Christians are engaged, informed, and offer sophisticated responses to the issues people face.

5. Too Political

- Perception: Christians are primarily motivated by a political agenda and promote right-wing politics.
- New perception: Christians are characterized by respecting people, thinking biblically, and finding solutions to complex issues.

6. Judgmental

- Perception: Christians are prideful and quick to find faults in others.
- New perception: Christians show grace by finding the good in others and seeing their potential to be Christ followers.

Conclusion

- We should remember that only God can open a person's heart to faith in Him.
- We are responsible for sharing the gospel, and then we leave the results to God.
- “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”