

# *The Disciples*

**Mark 3:13-19**

**1**

**13** And He went up on the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. **14** And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach, **15** and to have authority to cast out the demons. **16** And He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter), **17** and James, the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder"); **18** and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot; **19** and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

**2**

Jesus chose twelve men to be His special disciples. Men that would travel with Him, be His companions, learn from Him, witness the things He said and did, and to help Him in His ministry. I have always kind of chuckled when I hear people saying...

**3**

***“Why would He choose Judas Iscariot?”***

Verse 19 tells us that Judas was the one who would betray Christ to the authorities. Didn't Jesus know this? Of course He knew. That was why Judas was chosen. That may sound a little odd, but Jesus knew what had to happen and He knew that one of the disciples He chose would be the one to help facilitate the events leading to His sacrifice. Judas was exactly where he had to be to accomplish the task before him. But, and I want to emphasize this point, just because Christ, God, knew what Judas would do did not in any way force him to make the decisions that he did. The decisions were his and his alone. Nothing forces us to make the decisions we make, we choose.

Just about a year later Jesus gives His disciples a commission...

**Mark 6:7-13**

**4**

**7** And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits; **8** and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belt—**9** but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics." **10** And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. **11** Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them." **12** They went out and preached that men should repent. **13** And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.

Christ had kept the disciples with Him for a year. They had listened to His teachings, they had seen the signs and wonders that He performed; He cast out demons, healed the sick, and demonstrated His authority in all things, even to the forgiving of sin. They also saw Him refuse to do those signs and wonders in Nazareth because of the unbelief of those who had known Him from childhood...

**Mark 6:1-5**

**5**

**1** Jesus went out from there and came into His hometown; and His disciples followed Him. **2** When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. **4** Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and among his own relatives and in his own household." **5** And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

They learned that what He was teaching was the truth as confirmed by the things that He was doing which could only be done by the power and authority of God. They learned that knowing the truth is not enough. They learned that it takes belief in what you know, a commitment to your belief, and an obedience in your commitment.

After Jesus' second visit to Nazareth...

**Matt 9:35-36**

**6**

**35** Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. **36** Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus feels the compassion, the love, of God towards the people. He sees them as lost sheep wondering without focus, guidance, or a leader. Note then what He tells His disciples...

**Matt 9:37-38**

**7**

**37** Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. **38** "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Jesus wasn't looking for a huge following. He didn't care for worldly fame or glory, He had but one motivation...

**8**

***"Save man from his sin"***

**1 Tim 1:15**

**9**

**15** It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners

Jesus had called the disciples to be His missionaries. He called them so that they could carry the good news of the Gospel...

**Mark 6:7-13**

**10**

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All three Gospels mention this commissioning, here in Matt 10, also in Mark 6:7-11, and Luke 9:1-6. They were told to...

**Luke 9:2**

**11**

2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

This was the first time Christ sent His disciples out to proclaim the Gospel and it is what has become to be known as the limited commission, meaning that with this sending out He limited them as to where they could go...

**Matt 10:5-6**

**12**

5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; 6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Here then we see a drastic difference between what are known as...

**13**

A) The Limited Commission

B) The Great Commission

In...

**Matt 3:1-2**

**14**

1 Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Now compare what John came preaching with what Christ preached...

**Matt 4:17**

**15**

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Both Christ and John came preaching the same thing to the Israelites. Repent, change your ways, recognize that the way you have been applying God's Law in your lives is flawed, perverted.

The whole of the discussion of Christ in many of the things He taught in the sermon on the mount, which by the way occurs shortly after this time in Matt. 5, was trying to get the Israelites to realize that the way they were applying the Law had become so warped by tradition and erroneous understanding and application that what they were doing in the name of obedience bore very little resemblance to what God wanted. 5 different times He tells them...

**16** *“You Have Heard it Said”*

Jesus, like John was preaching that they needed to turn back to the truth and the ways of God because the new kingdom promised by God through the Old Law and the prophets would soon be established. So when the time came for Jesus to send out the disciples He limited them in the scope of where they could go, only to the...

**17** *“Lost Sheep of Israel”*

This is an excerpt from an article by Dan Billingsly...

**18** *“This [limited commission] was designed to prepare the Jewish nation for the "fulfillment" of all "prophecies" and "promises" concerning the Messiah and his work, for the disciples were told to go and preach this message to "all" the cities of Israel.”*

*Isa 46:8-10*

**19**

**8** “Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. **9** “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

God wanted, had always wanted, for His children, the Jews, to love Him, to desire to obey Him, and that is different than just obeying. Desiring to obey indicates and demands a love, a want, a commitment and not just a sense of something has to be done, though that is also a part of desiring. God wanted the Israelites to realize their folly and to turn back to Him before the coming of the New Kingdom. The point is that what John, Jesus, and the Apostles taught first was confined within the parameters of the Old Law. Christ lived under and faithfully kept that Old Law. Therein lies the difference between the Limited Commission and the Great Commission, to which the Church's mission today is tied. The directives of the Limited commission were to preach that the Kingdom was at hand, but when Christ gave the Great Commission...

*Mark 16:15-16*

**20**

**15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

Christ sent them out to fulfill their role as Apostles, witnesses. Note the difference in the Greek words for disciple and Apostle; Disciple comes from mathētēs and means a learner while Apostle comes from apóstolos and means one who is sent out. So, as Christians, we qualify as both, though in a more general sense. We are learners and we are witnesses, obviously not witnesses in the same sense as the Apostles, but Christians are His witnesses to the world today. He told them to carry the Gospel into the whole world teaching that salvation is for all men and all that man has to do to access that salvation through the blood of Christ is to believe and believing obey.

Here then is a simple question...

**21**

### ***Did They?***

Did they accomplish the task that He had given them? Let's consider some thoughts about this.

According to the Wycliffe Organization...

***The Bible has been translated into many languages from the biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. As of November 2014 the full Bible has been translated into 531 languages, and 2,883 languages have at least some portion of the Bible.***

Christ, in response to the private inquiries from Peter, James, John, and Andrew concerning His foretelling of events that were to occur said...

***Mark 13:9-10***

**22**

**9** "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. **10** The gospel must first be preached to all the nations.

Christ tells them that before the events are going to occur the Gospel will be preached to all nations. The true impact of this is found in...

***Col 1:23***

**23**

**23** if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

I have spent a lot time in this lesson just to get to this. Paul tells us that the Apostles accomplished their task, the Gospel was preached to all creation. It is not for us to question that statement, it is for us to believe it. As we have already discussed, we as Christians are both disciples and Apostles, in at least some form, so the real question is, have we accomplished our task?

**24**

### ***Has the Gospel been preached to all of Oakdale?***

That brethren, is our task. We can accomplish that if we all work together.