

Thirteen Are Sent

Matthew 10

Welcome back and here we go. Let's hope we are in tune with the Spirit as we seek His direction in all things, especially witnessing. Hopefully, today's title caught your eye. There are many ideas concerning spiritual authority, spiritual warfare, and the cost of service. Some say there is great cost; others say there is only gain.

Matthew 10

- 1) Do believers today have spiritual authority and how do they use it?

There are two general schools of thought:

- a) This was only for that moment – the Disciples
- b) It applies to all Believers.

Ultimately, no matter your thought on this, we all know that all authority comes through the name of Jesus the Christ and His name is the source of all victory.

- 2) Why did Jesus send out the 12?

“Old Betsy” back then was a donkey or two clogs! Travel was slow and effective witnessing took time.

2 x 2

- a) Safety
- b) Encouragement
- c) Witness

Jesus had begun His ministry. These 12 were with Him and they were His witnesses. Everyone needs someone to back up their story. How exciting. Suddenly these ordinary dudes are taken in like reverent Rabbis with spiritual authority!

Matthew 10:5-16

They were given tools to witness, primarily miracles.

- 3) a) Have you been sent?
b) What tools have been provided for you?

The chapter actually breaks into a new time period at **verse 17**.

Matthew 10:16-23

It talks of two time periods. 1st) The time between His death and Pentecost and 2nd) the Later days. It is a multi-layered prophecy with multiple time dispensations. We are in one of these now.

4) What dangers or hardships do you face in witnessing?

Then, is this lesson irrelevant to us? If we are His witnesses, and you have never actually seen Him.....

5) What are you a witness to?

Here is why our testimonies are so important. They testify as a witness to what Jesus can do in a life. Sometimes, we are reluctant because of what? Persecution? Why aren't people climbing over each other to testify of what God has done in their life?

My life verse is

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Part of my testimony is my situation kept getting more worse and dangerous, every time I was moved.

The real message is --- You, I, have been sent to everyone in your life. EVERYONE.

You are sent with the knowledge there will be opposition. It is not the glory of the victory. It is the glory of the message. Expect hurt and hardship in some relationships. That is expected. Spiritual victory often is not.

The victory is in your heart, knowing who and whose you are!

The real comfort is the enemy does not have authority over you.

6) Where have you been sent?

Let's pray.