



LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

LECTIONARY 11 – YEAR A READINGS

GENESIS 18:1 – 15, 21:1-7, PSALM 100,
ROMANS 5:1-8, MATTHEW 9:35 – 10:8

[Click here](#) to join Pastor Mark for a Live Zoom conversation each Wednesday at 10am.

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Matthew 9:35-10:8 (NRSV)

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” **10** Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, ⁹ cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (The Message)

Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. “What a huge harvest!” he said to his disciples. “How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!” **10** ¹⁻⁴ The prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives. This is the list of the twelve he sent:

Simon (they called him Peter, or “Rock”), Andrew, his brother, James, Zebedee’s son, John, his brother, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, the tax man, James, son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot (who later turned on him).

⁵⁻⁸ Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge: “Don’t begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don’t try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.

This passage begins with an up-close picture of Jesus’ ministry. We see that Jesus is preaching, teaching, and healing throughout Galilee. When Jesus sees the crowds of people, he has compassion on them. Next the frame zooms out to show us the apostles. By going from close up of Jesus to close up of the disciples, we are to assume that they should mirror his character.

1. *If you are “known by the company you keep,” what does Jesus’ character say about the disciples? What would you expect of them?*

Next Jesus summons the 12 and gives them authority (see last week’s Bible Study for more on authority in the Gospel of Matthew). Then we get a list of the 12 disciples:

Simon Peter – First called disciple, always listed first. The rock on which the Church is built, walks on water, denies Jesus 3 times

Andrew – Peter’s brother, fisherman

James & John - Zebedee’s sons (more fishermen) see Matthew 4:18-22

Philip - from Bethsaida, tells others to “come & see” see John 1:43-51

Bartholomew – listed as a disciple, not mentioned anywhere else in Bible

Thomas – practical, asks “how do we know where you are going if we do not know the way?” famous for not being with the 12 when the risen Christ first appears, “doubts”

Matthew – tax collector (worked for Roman Empire) see Matthew 9:9-14

James – son of Alphaeus

Thaddeus - listed as a disciple, not mentioned anywhere else in Bible

Simon the Canaanite – called a “zealot,” probably has rebelled against Roman gov’t

Judas Iscariot – Iscariot means *uncertain*.

2. *If you are known by the company you keep, what does the disciple’s character say about Jesus?*

Jesus sends the disciples out to reap the harvest that is right here. Later this gospel will end with the charge to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth (see last week), but for this first act of discipleship, the disciples are called to their own neighborhood.

3. *Why would Jesus send them to their own neighborhood?*

Let’s go back for a moment. In Matthew 10:1, we see Jesus summon the 12 *disciples*. The Greek word here is μαθητής (mathetes – the same root as the name Matthew), meaning student/apprentice. In verse 2, we see the names of the 12 *apostles*. The Greek word here is quite a literal translation, ἀπόστολος (Apostolos), meaning sent out. In one change of word, we see the purpose of the 12 change, or at least intensify, from being students to being sent.

4. *What is the connection for being students and being sent?*
5. *How do these titles apply to us today?*

The apostles are sent to heal, teach, touch, and proclaim that the “kingdom of heaven is here.”

6. *What does it mean that the Kingdom of Heaven is right here (not somewhere else?)*
7. *What is the connection to healing/touching/teaching and the proximity of the Kingdom of Heaven?*

Lastly, we see that the apostles have freely received from God (“without payment”), and that they are not to demand payment in return. It is huge step in faith, to be sent out to proclaim/heal/touch with this message of love with no human safety net.

8. *How have you been called out?*
9. *When have you taken a step of faith? How did God provide?*