

MINISTRY BEGINNINGS MATTHEW 10:5

One of the questions I've been asked about early ministry is "When do I start" ...services, offerings, serious men, praying for the sick, praying for the Holy Ghost, outreach, etc. In essence: When do I start doing what we do? The answer is immediately.

In the passage we are going to look at; Jesus sends out the disciples, and immediately instructs them to operate in a supernatural dimension. This sets a pattern for us-

Matthew 10:5-8 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. ⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

I IMMEDIATE DEMONSTRATION:

A- Jesus instructs the disciples to IMMEDIATELY start doing certain things-

1. V7-8 Preach, Heal, Cleanse, Raise, Cast out...

a. There are all action words... b/c ministry is action!

2. PG; Looking at Moses... Immediately upon arrival to Egypt there is immediate demonstration of power.

3. The question is WHY? Because the need already exists-

a. V7-8 there's the sick/lepers/the dead/people bound and oppressed by demons

B- So; This sets a pattern for us; When we send, & when we go we need to immediately declare and demonstrate

1. Because the need already exists!

a. People need Jesus NOW- **2Cor6:2** Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

b. The need is now... The need is urgent- **Jn4:35** You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.

i. Some men want to casually start things up... they have this idea that some things need to be in place before...

ii. Jesus says- Look around, the need is in the present.

II DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING:

A- Now: in our passage, Jesus is still with them... Up to this point they had participation in miracles, but now they are going out to exercise what they have seen-

1. This is a great picture of what we call Discipleship- You observe, learn, and put into practice.

a. We facilitate opportunity for you to practice NOW, to train now for future ministry

2. This training shapes how you think and approach ministry.

a. Think about these disciples' pastoral ministry; The book of Acts/The Acts of the Apostles... its filled with declaration and demonstration.

b. They were trained by experience with Jesus, and they carried that into their future.

B- This is vital for you! For your future ministry-

1. Experience today will make you effective tomorrow.

a. B/c this becomes your reality, not a theory.

2. So; It is in your best interest to step into action today-

a. These moments become reference points for tomorrow- *I have seen-*

b. These breakthroughs give you confidence for tomorrow- *Same God as in...*

c. These lessons give you wisdom for tomorrow- *I know how to navigate this-*

III MINISTRY BEGINNINGS:

A- The final practical outflow of immediate demonstration is CREDIBILITY-

1. The Gospel message is credible: People will oppose/argue/come against

a. But when there is demonstrable miracles & conversions connected to your message- How can they argue?

i. Your message becomes credible.

2. You are credible: As a Pastor, when people can see power connected to your ministry it makes you credible.

a. You may lack people skills/color coordination/social quirks... BUT you have power!

3. The church becomes credible: This becomes the foundation of your church... miracles are normal.

a. The reputation of your church is POWER!

4. So; Where are you in the ministry beginnings? Are you exercising power?

PRAY FOR HG DIMENSION