

Mission: How Jesus Trained His Disciples to Do More Than Learn

Matthew 10:5-25; 28:16-20

Today we start to answer the question, what's next? What follows Easter, according to Jesus?

How important were missions to Jesus? Very much: They were both **final** and **early**:

- *Final word.* The Great Commission.
 - **Beginners: What is the Great Commission?**

- *Early word.* Jesus initiates missions before the Great Commission.
 - Sending the twelve disciples (Matt 10/Luke 9), sending the seventy (Luke 10)

 - Details are interesting... But are these instructions for us today?
 - Take no gold, silver, copper, money belt... (10:9). But see Luke 22:35-36:
 - Do not go to the Samaritans or Gentiles. But see the Great Commission.
 - Jesus sent them two-by-two (Luke 10:1)

Skeptics: “Wait, didn’t Jesus send them to the Jews only in Matthew 10? Maybe he was a narrow-minded nationalist?”

- Yes, this is a real 21st century claim. Not making this up.

Strugglers: What I am struggling with to be on mission here, where I live?

- Fear.
- Are your fears founded? Unfortunately, sorta yes.
 - Jesus prepared us for the worst socially: “You will be hated by all...” (Matt 10:22)

- How Jesus practically aided the disciples overcome fear and grow in missions:
 - *Get incremental practice* (start small!). Jesus gave multiple missions tasks, goals, trips... We grow into this!

 - *Two-by-two.* Find a Christian companion or accountability partner in this work.

Next week: Luke’s Great Commission adds something about the larger story, beginning with the Old Testament. What does Jesus have to do with the Old Testament, anyway?

Questions for Application and Reflection

1. Is fear an inhibitor for you in engaging in mission here or on a trip? How did Jesus help his disciples overcome this?
2. What would be a goal for you in missions here or on a trip? Who can do this with you or keep you accountable to your goal?
3. For further study, read Jesus’ directions to the 70 in Luke 10:1-23. Meditate on the instructions, and you might need to ask someone or find a resource to help you understand.