



## **Part 56: Jesus' Commission for Mission**

Matthew 9:35 – 10:10

Jesus commissions us, as his friends and allies, to speak and embody the good news that God has come close with His love and life.

### **I. A Greater Mission**

General Dwight Eisenhower's letter to the Allied Forces on D-Day...

As much appreciation and respect as I have for these men and women and their great mission against evil and tyranny, I believe there is a greater mission that we are commissioned into by Jesus.

In our study of the Gospel of Matthew, we've seen Jesus announcing the good news of God's beautiful Kingdom and demonstrating its reality in his authority and power over sickness, death, evil, and sin.

"Jesus went throughout all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness." Matthew 4:23; 9:35

His disciples have been with him as he engaged in his mission, and now they are receiving their commission by Jesus to join him as his friends and allies in his mission.

"He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." Matthew 10:1

These twelve are both unique, and they are a paradigm for every follower of Jesus. They are unique as the twelve apostles, because they become the foundation of the Church carrying forward Jesus' mission in the world and setting the boundaries of faithful doctrine for the followers of Jesus (Ephesians 2:19-22) But they are clearly a paradigm or model for all followers of Jesus to carry on Jesus' mission in the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:1f; John 15:13-17).

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This means that we are called by Jesus to join him in the greatest mission the world has ever known. D-Day and the subsequent months of mission in Europe and in the South Pacific are a parable of way you and I are called to imagine our lives – as part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

## II. The Dynamics of Jesus' Mission

### A. Our Motivation

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Matthew 9:36

“Compassion” (Greek verb = *splanchnizo*) = to feel viscerally for another; to suffer with another.

Q – Why is there a mission? Because Jesus is moved by compassion for us, who he sees as “harassed and helpless.” God looks upon humanity and has compassion for us as we live under the tyranny of Satan’s cruel and deceptive rule; as we labor under the weight of our own sinful propensities; as we live in various measures of injustice and chaos; as we navigate competing claims for the best life possible; and as we all face sickness and ultimately death.

Q – Why is there a mission? Because there is a God, revealed in Jesus Christ, who is moved viscerally by the suffering of humanity! This is the God revealed in Jesus Christ!

This is our motivation: we, too, are moved by our Lord and Savior with compassion for others, who have not tasted and seen that the Lord is good and beautiful.

### B. Our Message

“Jesus went throughout all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.” Matthew 4:23; 9:35

“As you go, preach this message: ‘The Kingdom of heaven is near.’” Matthew 10:7

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“We are invited to make a pilgrimage – into the heart and life of God...God’s desire for us is that we should live in Him. He sends us the Way to Himself...God makes Himself and His kingdom available to us...Jesus offers himself as God’s doorway into the life that is truly life. Confidence in him leads us today, as in other times, to become his apprentices in eternal living.” – Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

### C. Our Resources

“He called his disciples to him and gave them authority...”  
Matthew 10:1

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.” Matthew 9:37-38

Notice the dependency and partnership Jesus is describing.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Ex. Pic of Trellis – see our resources/practices.

### D. Our Encouragement

“These are the names of the twelve apostles...These twelve Jesus sent out...” Matthew 10:2, 5

The Gospels are full of stories that show these men as ordinary people like us. None of us are disqualified from Jesus’ team unless we refuse his grace.

Note also the wild diversity in the twelve including Matthew the tax collector and Simon the Zealot (like pairing MAGA and Antifa).

### E. Our Attitude.: Humility & Generosity of Spirit

“Freely you have received, freely give.” Matthew 10:8

We often recite our Generosity Profession to remind ourselves that all that we have is a gift on loan from God...

### III. The Way of Life That is Truly Life (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

Q – What mission are you giving yourself to? What mission is the organizing principle of your life?

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of life that is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:18-19

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you...Greater love has no one than this, that he lay his life down for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” John 15:9, 13-15

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#### Discussion Questions:

1. How does it speak to your image of God to hear Jesus say he is moved by compassion for people (Matt. 9:36)? How might this change your perspective on the people around you, who do not know the Lord?
2. What do you think may be the implications of the fact that Jesus tells us to ask the Father for workers (Matt. 9:37-38)?
3. As you have thought about sharing the “gospel,” with others, what is the essence of that message? How does this Scripture inform or challenge your understanding of the gospel?
4. Doug says that D-Day and the remaining months of World War 2 are a parable of the way to think about Jesus’ mission in the world. What are your thoughts about this comparison?
5. What do you think about Doug’s main point in this sermon - “Jesus commissions us, as his friends and allies, to speak and embody the good news that God has come close with His love and life.” What parts of this sentence stir you and why?
6. Can you express how you think Jesus may be calling you more intentionally to live on mission with him? Are there any barriers you may need his help to overcome?

#### Videos Resources Used:

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Gives Powerful Speech for D-Day Invasion \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

[We Stand Alone Together – Band of Brothers Documentary \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)