

**Introduction**

1 I gave a friend I see regularly at the gym, a copy of Essential Jesus to read, which he did  
 2 His mother had taken him to SS and church, but he didn't carry this through with his own kids  
 3 He's unsure whether God exists, but believes Jesus lived, **but not** His virgin birth, resurrection  
 4 He is like most people in Sydney these days, who are humanly nice guys, but Bible is irrelevant  
 5 2000yo Bible can't be trusted as written by unsophisticated people, who believed world was flat  
 6 Bible is most examined book ever written; Matthew is brilliantly set out - 5 main teaching parts  
 7 Sermon on Mount (5-7) is 1<sup>st</sup> major teaching section, teaches who Jesus is, fulfilling/expanding  
 OT law, preached the good news healed many diseases etc. (8-9)-showed His God-given power  
 8 9:35-38 is bridge to Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup> great teaching section of Math as He **commissions 12 disciples**  
 to **spread His claims** by **healing, teaching** Israel's lost sheep in the towns, villages of Galilee

**I 10:1-15 Lord Jesus Commissions the 12 disciples to extend His ministry****A 10:1-10 Lord Jesus uniquely sent 12 disciples to minister only to the Jewish people**

- 1 v4 Sad to read Judas after spending 3 years with Jesus, rejected Jesus' control over his life
- 2 As read these opening verses, it is clear that the Lord's instructions to the 12 were unique.
  - a 10:5 Were told not to go to the Gentiles or enter any towns of the Samaritans
  - b 10:6 Must go to Israel's lost sheep -who understand little about OT God or who Jesus is
  - c 10:9-10 They were to **rely on God's provision** of their **needs through** the locals, so were not to take money, bag, staff, extra clothes/shoes, etc.
- 3 **So does not mean all** Christians must rush out, preach to Jews only, heal, raise dead etc.
- 4 This was an **unique ministry for that time**, so **not an all-time ban on carrying luggage**  
**Restless Chns mustn't use this as excuse to give up job, expect** others to look after them
- 5 10:7 Their message to preach was Kingdom of heaven is near, which has several meanings
  - a **Jews thought of God only** being in the temple/synagogue, **but** Jesus went to rural areas
  - b Was **claiming to be** God and His death/resurrection would bring in new type of worship
- 6 10:8 Coming of God's kingdom would be shown by the performing of many miracles of healing sick, making lepers clean, casting out demons, raising the dead - prophesied in OT
- 7 Today are **all sorts of claims of miracles** in various parts of the world, **some may be true**
- 8 However we do not need these miracles to happen to prove the truth of gospel as miracles did happen during Lord's ministry & during the new Covenant church in the book of Acts
- 9 Math 28:19 commissions every believer to make disciples in Acts Paul 1<sup>st</sup> went to Jews

**C 10:11-15 Were to remain at one home or town, that accepted their ministry**

- 1 Jewish rules of hospitality in a village meant if a visitor moved to another house to stay would be a sign of refusing what was offered in the 1<sup>st</sup> house, **so insulting/shaming host**.
- 2 Must find worthy person, able, willing to welcome them, their message, provide support
- 3 **Nothing to do with** status, wealth, **but willingness** to help Lord in every way they could
- 4 If one home/town rejected visitors, others will insult host if agree to accommodate visitors
- 5 Means that Jewish town/village who have known about Messiah's coming for centuries, will be judged more strictly than Sodom, Gomorrah on Final Judgement day +churchgoers

**D 10:16 Warning – To be sent out like vulnerable sheep among hostile wolves**

- 1 **Powerful image** -Good Shepherd sends out weak/vulnerable **sheep** among vicious wolves
- 2 **Weakness** against power; snake regarded as wise, dove peace sign - Good Shepherd helps
- 3 Need to pray for wisdom, good sense, sound mind as face strong enemy but trust shepherd

**II 10:16-25 Prepare for ongoing opposition as the King's messengers, but trust the King**

**A 10:17-18 Gospel sharing will bring opposition from both religious, secular authorities**

- 1 Lord **moves from specific for Jews to general for all** those who seek to spread the gospel
- 2 Jesus begins to prepare 12 disciples for later opposition after finishing this Jewish work
- 3 Not yet being handed over to **secular and religious leaders**, governors/kings as witnesses
- 4 Preparing all Chns for persecution in book of Acts, down thru' ages -sheep among wolves
- 5 **Religious leaders** have **always** persecuted true Bible teachers –Wesley. Latimer, today....
- 6 Increasing opposition worldwide from govts., world religions, media- Scripture in schools
- 7 Chy isn't religion, but relat'sh with God thru' Jesus-great in Sydney to have godly leaders
- 8 Today many church leaders worldwide have rejected Bible truths- persecute those who do
- 9 In 21<sup>st</sup> Century, all Chns must take Jesus seriously when Do I like it?; Is it comfortable ?
- 10 Chns will face hostility as the gospel is **message of a Repentance, b A changed life, c Makes moral demands** on the hearers; **d Put God 1<sup>st</sup>** in their lives rather than themselves
- 11 To refuse to share gospel, face opposition, choose **low-profile** Chn life **invisible to world**
- 12 Jesus doesn't call Chns to this, **commissions** them to share **their faith in Him publically**
- 13 After M Luther nailed 95 theses to Wittenburg church so all saw, **changed world history**
- 14 Took his stand on God's word as brought before King of Spain, Pope –tried to kill him
- 15 10:18 Lord warns will face opposition on His account-sent in His name, auth, do his work

**B 10:21-22, 34-36 Belief in Jesus will divide families, bring hatred from others, but .....**

- 1 **Unfortunately** belief in Jesus will cause many family problems eg Kids entering ministry
- 2 In countries where Ch'nity is in the minority is matter of **family honour, bringing shame**
- 3 Family members can be disowned/disinherited when become Chn **eg** son rejects ancestors
- 4 10:21 Bible teaches rel'ship with God - more important than family, ... **but honour parents**
- 5 10:34-36 Lord wants sinners to be reconciled to Him - will mean some accept, other don't
- 10:37 **"Anyone who loves his father, or mother more than Me is not worthy Me, Anyone who loves his son or daughter more than Me, is not worthy of Me"**
- 6 10:22 Standing up for Jesus **causes hatred** - may mean losing job/not getting work in ME
- 7 Will be tough, but called upon to stand firm, trusting in the Lord - reward of eternal life
- Eg** In UK, brother beat up sister every Sunday for 6 mths after she returned from church

**E 10:24-25 Christians must expect persecution as they live for Jesus - He experienced it**

- 1 As Chns we must recognise it is going to be tough to follow Jesus, follow in his footsteps
- 2 **Lord left heaven, born, grew up, died** on cross **willingly** to **offer us forgiveness of sins**
- 3 Jewish spiritual leaders accused Him of being Beelzebub, Satan after had done miracles
- 4 **Those who reject Jesus will say the same things about Chns, many have been martyred**
- 5 When kingly rule of Jesus is seen in Chns' lives **both the King, servants** will be rejected
- 6 If we take Jesus' words seriously about what will happen to those separated from God by their sin, we will want to be part of His rescue team to all who've been sinners since birth
- 7 We as believers are **called upon to follow Lord's eg of openly telling others** re our faith
- 8 Barnabas Fund magazines show us how Chns are being martyred for their faith every day

**B 10:19-20 God will provide His full resources through the Holy Spirit to help them**

- 1 God provides **His abilities** to do **His work** – this is **great message** of the New Testament
- 2 God has **sent His Holy Spirit** to live in the lives of all those who have repented, believed
- 3 Shows special relat'ship that exists betw. those commissioned by King to do His work of sharing their Chn faith **and** God the heavenly Father, who sent His Son into the world
- 4 When Chns are persecuted for telling others about Jesus, God will give right words to say
- 5 Many eg today of persecuted Chns being helped, but do we believe God's promise here?

**F 10:26-42 Enemies of Mission -Fears Within (10:26-33) + Conflicts Without (10:34-42)**

No time to look at **Fear of** slander, violence, disinterest; **Separation from** family, world

### **III 10:32-33 Summary of Matthew 10 determines where we will spend eternity**

- 1 Although disciples were uniquely commissioned to minister to Jews only at that time, Lord **began to prepare them and us for the future persecution** they would face as His followers
- 2 With every example of persecution, He **gave them a promise** they would receive His help
- 3 If we are serious followers of the Lord Jesus we **will** also **face** open opposition, persecution
- 4 10:32-33 **Are we prepared to tell others that we believe in** and we **follow** the Lord Jesus?
- 5 At the **final Judgement Day** will only be 2 **destinations**. **Where each goes will depend** on our **individual response** to Lord Jesus.
  - 32** If you/I tell others you are a follower of Jesus, He will tell this to His Father in heaven
  - 33** If you have rejected Jesus' control over your life, refused to witness about Jesus, He will tell God you do not belong to Him and you will face separation from God forever in hell