

Talk-It-Over

"MEN AT WORK"

Message Date: June 16, 2013

LifeGroup Week: June 16-23, 2013

Matthew 10:1-15

10 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "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 And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹ Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

- What did Jesus do before sending out His men **(v.1)**?
- How do the disciples' activities here compare with what Jesus had been doing in chapters 8-9? With what He has just seen **(Mt. 9:36)**? With what He has prayed **(Mt. 9:38)**?
- The "zealots" were guerrilla fighters committed to the freedom of the Jews from Rome. Why would Jesus choose one of them to be on the same team with Matthew, a tax collector who had worked with Rome?
- What limits did Jesus put on their ministry **(v.5)**? Do you think the disciples were disappointed that these groups were excluded? Why?
- What was to be their message? What were they to do?
- Why do you think Jesus told them to take nothing more than the clothes on their backs?
- What was the basic point of Jesus' preparation speech to the disciples? What problems would they (and future disciples) face? How were they to respond to each problem?