

'THE REST OF THE STORY'

(The Life of Christ Series)
Lessons from Luke 6

Training the 12

We already knew God was good at making something out of nothing – just read the creation week record in **Genesis 1**! The Creator just spoke into existence the awesome things of heaven and earth (**Hebrews 11:1-3**)! Again, when He takes sinners and saves them by grace to be a child of God, He performs an awesome work of *new creation* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). But to be honest, Christ was just getting started when He created the world (**John 1:1-3**) and when He created a new life in you (*if you are a born-again Christian*) – discipleship of a child of God is an ambitious, life-long endeavor of the Triune God. It takes longer than a week and it takes more than a simple prayer asking for forgiveness – **discipleship** is the Father's divine will for every believer; it is the long-range project of the Son; and it is the supernatural hard work of the Holy Spirit within all true children of God (**Romans 8:29-30**).

During the Great Galilean Ministry of Jesus, the greatest, most enduring miracle He performed was the calling of the 12 disciples, the appointment of them to become apostles, and the gradual transformation of them into His likeness inside and out. A few months into His public ministry of teaching and healing, Jesus called His first disciples (*Peter, Andrew, James, John, Matthew*) to begin the discipleship process.

Shortly after that when serious opposition to Christ erupted, Jesus prayerfully called the remaining disciples to complete the roster of disciples-in-process (**Luke 6:12-26**). Although it is likely that the final seven disciples had been following informally all along, Jesus' official call and appointment made it official that they would become fully committed disciples of the Savior. In all likelihood, the 12 had the same spiritual, moral and ethical maturity listed for elders in **1 Timothy 3:1-7**. But in addition to these basic entry-level prerequisites **Matthew 10:5-42** reveals the essential expectations of them Jesus had throughout His earthly time with them before returning to heaven.

'Disciples': Special Agents of The King

(The Highest Honor Vocation This Side of Heaven)
Matthew 10:5-42

The Disciples' Commission

(The original 12 disciples)
10:5-10

Compare what Jesus commanded the 12 at the start of their training with what He said what He said to them at the end of His public ministry in the Upper Room at 'the Last Supper' (**Luke 22:35-38**).

- Why the change in commission to come following Jesus' death, burial and resurrection?
- What other changes in the original commission do you observe? (*the message, region of mission, ministry emphasis, provision, accommodations, etc.*) Why?
- What must be the general '*world view*' and '*life philosophy*' of a disciple to be this way?
- Is this 'disciple mind-set' helpful in major life decisions (*dating, marriage, vocation, etc.*)?

The Disciple's Provision

10:11-20

- What are some promises from the Lord regarding provisions from this passage?
- What are some ways God will guide a disciple to the right place for ministry?
Talk about '*closed doors*' and '*open doors*' as God's way of directing disciples.
- Talk about the disciple's demeanor in ministry (*lamb-like, serpentine, dove-like*) amid a *pack of wolves*' world of unbelievers. Why is this 'manner' so vital in ministry?
- Discuss how the disciple needs to see persecution and injustice for his or her faith.
- Talk about what it must be like to have the Holy Spirit speak through you when under duress.

The Disciple's Preservation

10:21-31

- Talk about the kinds of distresses a disciple can expect and how God helps him or her be faithful, durable and mature through such trials.
- Does this passage indicate disciples become fearful sometimes? What things Jesus says are helpful in replacing fear with faith?

The Disciple's Priorities

10:32-39

- According to Jesus what can you tell about the spiritual condition of someone who won't speak out publicly about the Savior and the gospel?
- What did Jesus say the gospel message will cause in people who will not believe?
- What is the proof of a disciple's superior love for Jesus Christ when it comes to putting Him above even family obligations?
- Can someone be a disciple if family comes before serving Christ? Are they saved?
- What blessing does Jesus promise to disciples who put Him above all other things?

The Disciples' Consolation

10:40-42

This closing passage is encouraging to all serious followers of Christ who are called to a supportive role of those in more public leadership ministries.

- Talk about how important it is to bless and help other disciples in any way we can.

