

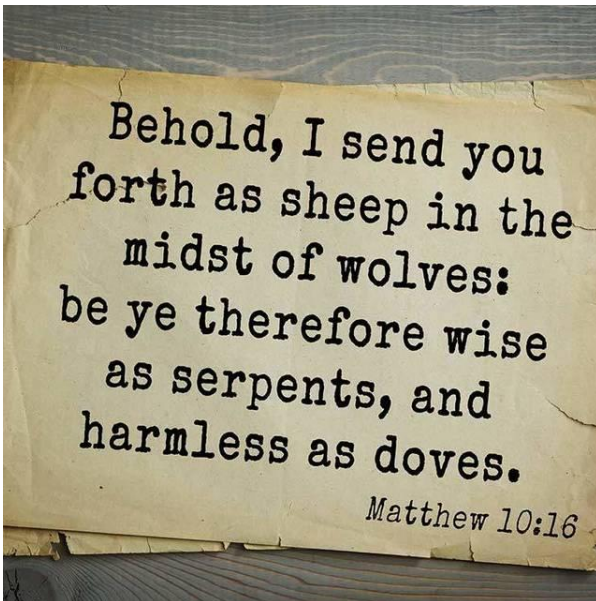
18-- Limited Commission and the Death of John

Matthew 9:35-11:1; 14:1-12; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-9

1. In Matthew 9:35-38 Jesus sees the multitude of disciples growing. What two illustrations does Jesus use to describe this scene? What do the people need and what does He encourage people to do because of this problem?

2. In order to reach more people, what does Jesus do with His disciples (Matthew 10:1-7; Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1-2)? What does He enable them to do which would draw more people to hear the message?

3. Why are the texts in the preceding question called "The Limited Commission?" What is the difference between this commission and "The Great Commission" (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15)?



4. Jesus instructs His disciples not to bring extra food, money, or clothing (Matthew 10:8-10; Mark 6:80-9; Luke 9:2-3). Who would provide for the apostles' needs as they travelled and how is this same principle true for proclaimers of the gospel today (Galatians 6:6; 1 Timothy 5:18)?

5. The disciples are sent out "two by two" (Mark 6:7). What wisdom is there in sending out His disciples in pairs?

6. Jesus provides further instructions on how the disciples were to handle themselves as they went from city to city (Matthew 10:11-16). Why was it important to stay with a “worthy” household (10:11)? Why were they to avoid switching houses in a town (10:11)? What were they to do as they walked up to a household (10:12)? Would their experiences always be pleasant (10:14)? How does the Old Testament give us some insight into the practicing of shaking the dust off of one’s feet (see Amos 7:7; Ezekiel 14:1)?

7. The apostles are specifically warned of the dangers which lie ahead of them. What kinds of trials did Jesus say the apostles could expect to see in their futures (Matthew 10:17-18, 21-23)? Can you think of specific ways this prophecy of Jesus comes true in the lives of these men? What are these men promised would happen while they were on trial (Matthew 10:19-20)?

8. What explanation does Jesus give for why disciples should expect persecution (Matthew 10:24-25)? While it would be easy to be fearful, why does Jesus encourage His apostles not to be overcome by fear (10:26-31)? What should be more intimidating to us than the threats of men?

9. Jesus speaks of the danger of denying Christ (Matthew 10:32-33)? What could be some of the ways we might deny Jesus? Furthermore, what is the danger of compromising our faith for family (10:34-39)? How do we see such compromises in the lives of Christians today?

10. What is said about those who “receive” and aid the disciples as they go and preach their message (Matthew 10:40-42)? How can we aid those who teach and preach the gospel? How is this message from Jesus particularly comforting? At nearly the same time as this commission, what had happened to John the Baptist which would be particularly discouraging (Matthew 14:1-2; Mark 6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9)?