

Matt. 10:1-4

A disciple is a learner, one who follows a teacher for their wisdom. Jesus had many disciples including some that were just hanging around and then some who were true believers, John 6:66 tells us many of his disciples left him except the 12. From a large group Jesus picked 12 and he called them apostles. The word comes from the Greek 'Apostello' which means "to set forth for a commission." It was used by the Greeks for the personal representatives of the king, ambassadors who functioned at the king's authority. To make light of the king's envoys was to be in danger of insubordination.

We touched on the 12 last week.

A man had to meet certain qualifications to be an apostle of Jesus Christ. He must have seen the risen Christ 1 Corinthians 9:1 and had fellowship with him Acts 1:21-22. He had to be chosen by the Lord Eph. 4:11.

An apostle would lay the foundation for the church Eph. 2:20 and then move on from there. While all believers are to represent the King John 17:18 and 20:21 no believer today can truly claim to be an apostle because we haven't seen the risen Christ 1 Peter 1:8.

5-8

Go to the Jews, stay away from the gentiles and the Samaritans! There is a reason for this, if they had gone to the Samaritans and the gentiles first, no one would have received them when they came back because the Jews despised the gentiles... The Jews had been prepared by the prophets, the covenants and by the promises. So, the Lord sent them to the Jews first. After all Jesus is the king of the Jews! And it's the Jews that are going to bring truth of salvation to the world during the tribulation, because they are still God's chosen people!

Apostles were given special power and authority from Jesus to perform miracles. These miracles are part of their "official credentials" (Acts 2:43 & 5:12, 2 Cor. 12:12, & Heb. 2:1-4) they healed the sick, lepers, cast out demons, and raised the dead. These four ministries coincide with the miracles Jesus performed in Matthew 8 and 9, this is how the apostles represented the King and extended his work.

9-10

Jesus is saying "trust me, I will take care of you." I(Jesus) got this! If you think about it the apostles are giving freely to people miracles healing casting out of demons the cleansing of the lepers, what people after seeing all these freely given gifts would not want to at least try to reciprocate with lodging and food? When God guides, God provides. The Jews will be blessed and encouraged and will want to be a blessing in return...

11-13

Whoever was to open the house for the apostles they were to stay there while they were in that town preaching. They weren't to stay there just until something better offer came along, sometimes the least likely person is the one that's going to be the most open to the gospel and its biggest proponent.

14-15

In those days if a town was to refuse a guest it was considered a huge no no! The Jewish custom was whenever they would cross gentile land before they entered Jewish land, they would shake the dust off their feet so as not to defile the Holy Land. If they did this in a town that rejected them and people saw it, they knew exactly what it meant. Jehovah's witnesses' practices this still.

The Great commission Matthew 28:19-20!

