

The Commission of the Committed

Chapter 13

Audio lesson: New Testament 13



Objective: To introduce the twelve apostles and to understand the cost and rewards of discipleship.



Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

—Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus trained twelve disciples, or “apostles,” to reach the world with the Good News, the message of salvation. The apostles were to preach the Gospel and demonstrate the kingdom of God through signs and wonders. They were to heal the sick, cleanse lepers, cast out devils and raise the dead. They would not always be well received, but they were to preach and give the Gospel freely to all without asking anyone for anything, trusting God to meet their every need. His disciples were to live by faith.

Jesus’ disciples followed Him closely for three years and then faithfully spread the Good News after His resurrection and ascension, just as we must be faithful to reach our world for Christ as we proclaim the Gospel to the world in which we live.



1. **True** or false? The word “apostle” means “sent one.”

2. **True** or false? The twelve apostles were always learning from Jesus because they were always with Him.
3. **True** or false? Most of Jesus' great discourses were given primarily to the twelve apostles.
4. True or **false**? The commissioning of the disciples was a unique event; Jesus does not send people out anymore.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.

5. Which disciple was the philosophical thinker who doubted Jesus' resurrection?
- a. Peter
 - b. Thomas**
 - c. Philip
 - d. James
6. What was Matthew's profession?
- a. Tax collector**
 - b. Fisherman
 - c. Priest
 - d. Writer
7. Which disciples were brothers? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. Philip and Bartholomew
 - b. Peter and Andrew**
 - c. Judas and Simeon
 - d. James and John**
 - e. Thomas and Matthew
8. To whom were the disciples first told to go?
- a. Gentiles
 - b. Jews**
 - c. Pharisees
 - d. Everyone
9. What kind of welcome did Jesus indicate the disciples would receive?
- a. Crowds would gather around them to hear the Gospel.
 - b. No one would notice them.
 - c. They would become martyrs.
 - d. They would be like sheep among wolves, and many would reject them.**

10. The cost of discipleship is so great that we must be willing to place Jesus above _____ . (choose all that apply)

- a. The people we know
- b. Our possessions
- c. Our own dreams and desires
- d. Our families
- e. Our own life plans

11. How does Jesus say we should spend our lives?

- a. Save it at all costs
- b. Let it spill away
- c. **Spend it, or sacrifice it, for Him**
- d. Always working, never resting

12. Which of the following promises can we believe in if we have fellowship with Jesus?

- a. We will not have to go through storms in life.
- b. All storms must obey our command.
- c. We will eventually be destroyed by the storms of life.
- d. **No storm can overcome us if He is “in the ship” with us.**



Have you ever encountered a problem that you felt would destroy your life? If so, what was it? How does Jesus' promise to be with you in every situation comfort and strengthen you?



Thank God for wanting to use you to share His Good News with others. Thank God that He is always with us and is above every storm in life and that nothing can sink those who are in fellowship with Him. Ask Him to strengthen your fellowship with Him and to strengthen your faith. Now ask Him if there is someone you should share the Good News with. Ask God for wisdom, an opportunity and courage to share the Gospel with them.



Going Deeper

1. Using all the resources you have, like Bible dictionaries, commentaries and books on the apostles, what was each individual apostle doing when he met Jesus, how did that change because he met Jesus, what was he doing when he died and where and how did he die?

2. In what ways is the fate of the disciples an example of what the famous German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer called “The Cost of Discipleship”? _____

3. Jesus sent the disciples out to preach. Why did He instruct them to take no provisions with them for their journey? _____

4. How can you personally apply the story of the apostles in a boat that was caught in the midst of a great storm, when Jesus turned that great storm into a great calm? _____

5. What are the personal applications of the storm story in Matthew 14 when Jesus invited Peter to walk on the water to Him? _____

6. In the dialogue between Jesus and Peter in Matthew 16, Peter had the right answer to Jesus’ question, “*Who do you say that I am?*” The Lord praised him and then, in the next sentence, He rebuked Peter and called him Satan. What does this teach us about our own inconsistencies in our faith and response to Jesus? _____

7. How should we apply the covenant that Jesus established in Matthew 4:19 with the two sets of brothers who became apostles, when He essentially challenged them with “*Follow me and I will make you ...*”? _____
