

March 6–12. Matthew 9–10; Mark 5; Luke 9: “These Twelve Jesus Sent Forth”

Twelve Apostles Called and Instructed

Jesus instructs and empowers the Twelve Apostles

Matt 10:1,5-8

1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

What were the Twelve commanded to do with the authority they had been given?

(heal all manner of sickness,
go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel
they were to witness, "the kingdom... at hand"
Heal the sick... freely ye have received, freely give)

Ezra Taft Benson

"The Master selected his Twelve. He named them; he sent them forth with the message, 'the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' They went to the lost sheep of the House of Israel....

"They enjoyed rich spiritual gifts. Simple ordinances were performed by men who had authority and had been commissioned. The apostolic ministry was characterized by every evidence that those engaged in it had divine authority to carry the message of the gospel and to administer in the affairs of the kingdom. They went forth freely without pay, because the Master had said, 'freely ye have received, freely give.'" (CR, Oct. 1949)

Today we also have Apostles. In D&C 107:23 it states that they are "special witnesses of the name of Christ".

What do you think it means to be a “special witnesses of the name of Christ”?

Joseph F. Smith

“These twelve disciples of Christ are supposed to be eye and ear witnesses of the divine mission of Jesus Christ. It is not permissible for them to say, I believe, simply; I have accepted it simply because I believe it. Read the revelation, the Lord informs us they must know, they must get the

knowledge for themselves. It must be with them as though they had seen with their eyes and heard with their ears and they know the truth.” (CR, Apr. 1916)

Here are a few examples of our latter-day apostles giving their witness of Jesus Christ

Boyd K. Packer

"I have heard one of my brethren declare: 'I know from experiences, too sacred to relate, that Jesus is the Christ.'

"I have heard another testify: 'I know that God lives; I know that the Lord lives. And more than that, I know the Lord.'...

"I declare to you that I know that Jesus is the Christ. I know that he lives. He was born in the meridian of time. He taught his gospel, was tried, was crucified. He rose on the third day. He was the first fruits of the resurrection. He has a body of flesh and bone. Of this I bear testimony." (CR, Apr. 1971)

Henry B. Eyring

"I am grateful that I know as surely as did the Apostles Peter, James, and John that Jesus is the Christ, our risen Lord, and that he is our advocate with the Father." (CR, Oct. 1996)

Ezra Taft Benson

"As one of those called as special witnesses, I add my testimony to those of fellow Apostles: He lives! He lives with resurrected body. There is no truth or fact of which I am more assured, or know better by personal experience, than the truth of the literal resurrection of our Lord." ("Five Marks of the Divinity of Jesus Christ," Ensign Dec. 2001)

James E. Faust

"Mine is the certain knowledge that Jesus is our divine Savior, Redeemer, and the son of God the Father. I know of his reality by a sure perception so sacred I cannot give utterance to it." (CR, April 1995)

Spencer W. Kimball

"'I know that God lives. I know that Jesus Christ lives,' said John Taylor, my predecessor, 'for I have seen him.' I bear this testimony to you." ("Strengthening the Family", Ensign, May 1978)

Boyd K. Packer

"I bear my witness that the Savior lives. I know the Lord. I am His witness. I know of His great sacrifice and eternal love for all of Heavenly Father's children. I bear my special witness in all humility but with absolute certainty" (CR, April 2014)

Jesus is aware that His apostles will be hated and persecuted by the world. That is what they have done to Him so they should expect the same. But if they endure to the end they will be saved.

Matt 10:16-28

16 ¶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

JST Matt 10:14

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye, therefore, wise servants and as harmless as doves.

What does it mean to endure to the end?

Marvin J. Ashton

“What does it take to endure in the race for eternal life, to become a champion?

“To become a winner in the race for eternal life requires effort—constant work, striving, and enduring well with God’s help. But the key is that we must take it just one step at a time.

“The ingredient that is essential in learning to endure is consistent effort. In our race for eternal life, pain and obstacles will confront all of us. We may experience heartaches, sorrow, death, sins, weakness, disasters, physical illness, pain, mental anguish, unjust criticism, loneliness, or rejection. How we handle these challenges determines whether they become stumbling stones or building blocks. To the valiant these challenges make progress and development possible.” (CR, Oct. 1948)

How can we avoid those who would destroy our souls?

Spencer W. Kimball

"The human destructionist can inject into other human lives in a short time the doubt and skepticism which can mean total loss of faith.... The damage to faith of an individual done by an iconoclast, whether deliberate or not, may take years or ages of rebuilding, if it is ever fully restored....

"In our own Society, the murderer who kills the body is hunted, imprisoned, and executed, but the character who kills the soul by implanting doubt and shattering faith is... often retained in high places. The body which is killed will rise again in the resurrection with little damage to its eternal welfare, but he whose faith has been shattered may suffer long ages before complete restoration of spiritual stature can be had, if at all....

"Far better to take from a man his flocks or herds, his lands or wealth, even his sight or limbs, than to be responsible for the loss of his faith." (CR, April 1948)

He tells them how they, and those whom they teach, can receive all the blessings of the Father.

Matt 10:32-42

32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

40 ¶ He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

That does it mean take up the cross and follow Him?

JST Matt 16:25–26, 29

25) If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his

cross and follow me.

26) And now for a man to take up his cross, is to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments.

29) Therefore, forsake the world, and save your souls

What does it mean to lose your life for Christ's sake?

Ezra Taft Benson

“Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that He can make a lot more out of their lives than they can. He will deepen their joys, expand their vision, quicken their minds, strengthen their muscles, lift their spirits, multiply their blessings, increase their opportunities, comfort their souls, raise up friends, and pour out peace. Whoever will lose his life in the service of God will find eternal life.” (“Jesus Christ—Gifts and Expectations”, Ensign, Dec. 1988)

What must we do to so that we “receive” those whom the Lord has sent?

Marion G. Romney

“This statement is worth emphasizing. ‘He that receiveth my servants receiveth me.’ Who are his servants? They are his representatives in the offices of the Priesthood—the General, Stake, Priesthood Quorum, and Ward officers. It behooves us to keep this in mind when we are tempted to disregard our presiding authorities, bishops, quorum and stake presidents, etc., when, within the jurisdiction of their callings, they give us counsel and advice. Remember that the Lord Jesus said:... ‘He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.’” (CR, Oct 1960)

Follow Christ at Any Cost

Luke 9:57-62

57 ¶ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

59 And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

What is the Lord's message to those who would follow Him?

LeGrand Richards

"Jesus fully understood the necessity of the preaching of the gospel unto all nations, and that this could only be done by great sacrifice, as evidenced by his own statements: (quotes Luke 9:57-58).

"In other words, it would appear that Jesus wanted to make it plain to this 'certain man,' and all other men who might want to follow him in the ministry in the future (and we take it that this is the reason the statement became scripture), that he had nothing to offer them in the way of monetary consideration for following him, not even a place to lay their heads. (quotes Luke 9:59-62).

"In other words, Jesus wanted it to be understood that nothing was to stand in the way of preaching the kingdom of God, not even the care of one's dead or the saying of farewell." (A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, pg. 247)

Jesus Heals the Sick

Woman touches Jesus and is healed

Mark 5:25-34

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,
26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,
27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.
28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.
29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.
30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?
31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?
32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.
33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.
34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

How did this women demonstrate her faith in Christ?

Quentin L. Cook

“The Savior did not see her; He had not focused on her need. But her faith was such that touching the border of the garment drew upon the healing power of the Son of God.

“As the Savior said to her, ‘Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.’

“I have contemplated this account all my adult life. I realize that our personal prayers and supplications to a loving Father in Heaven in the name of Jesus Christ can bring blessings into our lives beyond our ability to comprehend. The foundations of faith, the kind of faith that this woman demonstrated, should be the great desire of our hearts.” (CR, April 2017)

Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter From the Dead

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

What was the message to Jairus when he was told that his daughter had died?

(Be not afraid, only believe)

Gordon B. Hinckley

“The problem with most of us is that we are afraid. We want to do the right thing, but we are troubled by fears and we sit back and the world drifts about us.

"I confess to you that by nature I was a very timid boy. When I left to go on a mission my great father said, ‘I want to give you only one verse of scripture.’ I think this has become, perhaps, the greatest help of my life,

these words of the Lord to the ruler of the synagogue whose daughter was reported dead. And the Lord turned to the ruler of the synagogue and said: 'Be not afraid, only believe.' I commend to you these wonderful words of the Lord as you think of your responsibilities and opportunities." (Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, pg. 129)