

"The King's Plans"

Matthew 8-10

Introduction:

The Kingdom - The kingdom is the rule and reign of God.

Old Testament - 12 Tribes of Israel - Physical Kingdom on Earth

New Testament - Church - Spiritual Kingdom on Earth

Millennium - Physical Millennial Kingdom on Earth

New Heaven & Earth - All the Ransomed - Eternal Kingdom in Heaven & on Earth

The King's Mission

Matthew 8-9 begins with at least ten miracles of healing.

Precept: Sometimes ministry starts with simply blessing and helping people; but that is never the end of ministry; it can be a starting point.

Precept: When you are the first person in a 'group', it may be that God has chosen you to be his instrument to reach that group of people with the good news.

Matthew 10 is primarily about the mission of Jesus and who Jesus uses to get the message out, first to the Jews (Matthew 10:5-6); Jesus uses his disciples (Matthew 10:1-4, 7) and Jesus gives them very important instructions (Matthew 10:8-33).

Precept: First, there is a general call to trust Christ. The second call is to ministry. Third, there is a call to go to unreached places to plant the gospel. Finally, there is the call to die if necessary, so that others can hear the good news.

Jesus' instructions: Go only to the Jews (10:5-6); proclaim the kingdom of heaven is at hand (10:7); heal, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons (10:8); do it free—anticipate being cared for by God's people (10:9-10). Aim at "worthy people" and bring them "peace" (10:11-13); leave the doubters and unwelcoming to themselves (10:14-15).

Jesus' warning: Expect being sheep amongst wolves (10:17-20); expect family to betray you (10:21-22a); expect persecution and labels (10:23-25). This will be normal for many and for a long time, but don't respond in fear (10:26-28) rather fear God who controls life and death—he will make everything right in his time and reward those who obey and are loyal at all costs (10:29-33).

Jesus' point of view - Jesus brings us to the Father but in doing that some relationships break (10:34-36) and challenges us to put him first at all cost—this is 'finding one's life', (10:37-39) and leads to our final and true rewards (10:40-42).