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## ***The King's Charge # 1***

*Matthew 10:5-15*

Chapter 10 speaks about the Lord Jesus commissioning his twelve disciples and charging them to preach the kingdom of God in Galilee. Having chosen these twelve men to follow Him, be with Him, live with Him, listen to Him and learn from Him, Jesus now sends them to preach the good news of the kingdom of God. This is part of their training in preparation for their ultimate commission in Matthew 28:19ff.

### ***1. Where they \_\_\_\_\_***

Jesus the Messiah is giving a command to His disciples and He requires full and complete obedience. He sends them to the lost sheep of the house of Israel only because this is in accordance with Old Testament prophecy. The gospel of the kingdom must first be brought to Israel (cf. Matt. 9:36; 15:24; Jer. 50:6; Ezek. 34:5,6). God's plan of redemption therefore begins with the Jews first and then to the Gentiles (Rom. 1:16, cf. Rom. 2:9,10; 11:28, Ezek. 34:11-12).

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### ***2. What \_\_\_\_\_ they were to preach***

The kingdom of God is simply the message that the Messiah is here to establish God's reign in the hearts and lives of His people (cf. Matt. 3:2; 4:17,23). It begins at one's conversion (John 3:5), then lived through a transformed life marked by righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17), and culminates at the return of Jesus. This glorious news of the kingdom requires repentance (Mark 6:12). The Lord promised to empower His apostles, giving them the credentials they need to validate their ministry (2 Cor. 12:11-12)

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### ***3. How they should be \_\_\_\_\_***

Because of the shortness and the urgency of the journey, Jesus told His apostles not to encumber themselves with trying to collect all these other things. The disciples must learn to trust the Lord in their mission. God will provide and therefore the apostles must place their trust entirely in Him (Matthew 6:25ff., cf. Luke 22:35). God will provide and He will use His people to do that (1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 9:14, cf. Deut. 25:4; 1 Cor. 9:7).

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### ***4. What reactions they would expect***

Hospitality was not much of a problem at that time (Rom. 12:13; Titus 1:8; cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:10; Heb. 13:2). To the hospitable hosts, the disciples were to leave their peace. Peace "shalom" was a comprehensive blessing that included wholeness, soundness, health, welfare, prosperity, well-being, blessing, and benediction from God (Num. 6:24-26).

To the unhospitable houses, Jesus says, 'Take back your peace and shake off the dust from your feet (i.e. treat them as the Gentiles).' God's divine judgment will rest upon those who reject the gospel message (Gen. 13:13; 18:20; Jude 7; cf. Luke 12:47, 48, Heb. 6:4-6).

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Today, God sends us to proclaim the good news of God's salvation. And the only possible response, the only good response to that message is to faithfully and constantly proclaim that news to everyone we come in contact with. That is the King's charge, and that ought to be our ultimate concern.