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## *The King's Messengers*

*Matthew 10:1-4*

This new section of the Book of Matthew deals with the calling of Jesus' disciples and sending them as His apostles. In chapter 9:35ff, our Lord Jesus saw the crowd and He was moved with great compassion because He saw their lost condition. Yet He also the crowd as a field that is ready to be harvested (vv. 37-38). The disciples who were called to pray for laborers became the ones who would be going and preaching.

The Lord is always looking for people who would become His ambassadors (Isa. 6:8); people like Isaiah who would respond, "*Here I am Lord, send me.*"

### *Sermon Outline*

#### **1. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples***

The term "called" in verse 1 means calling someone toward you so that you're face to face with them. Jesus called them before His face to instruct them, to give them a commission and to send them. These ambassadors of Christ were first followers of Christ and friends of Christ, before they went to witness for Him (Luke 6:12-13,20). The Lord Jesus Himself after praying (Luke 6:12-13) chose these men (Mark 3:13, John 15:16) and discipled them (Matt.11:9). If we are to serve Christ, in whatever capacity and vocation the Lord has put us, it is crucial that we must know Him, and be known of Him.

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#### **2. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples***

After Jesus called them and trained them to be His disciples, He sent them as His apostles. Jesus gave His Apostles His own authority. The Lord Jesus does not intend these apostles to do their ministry in their own strength. He intends for them to be entirely dependent upon His power (Zech. 4:6; 2 Cor. 12:10).

Jesus gave His Apostles His authority and power: a) in order to attest to the truth of their interpretation of the word; b) to authenticate their earthly credentials (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:1-4); c) to validate their message that kingdom of God is at hand (Matt. 3:2)

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#### **3. *The \_\_\_\_\_ of the disciples***

Jesus chose twelve young, ordinary, diverse men. They were diverse in their biographical backgrounds, their trades, their personality traits, experiences and their spiritual maturity. They lacked spiritual understanding, commitment, humility, faith and the power. But in spite of their diversity and insufficiency, God called them, loved them, trained them and sent them. It is not accidental that Jesus chose twelve disciples. He was aware of the twelve tribes of Israel. In choosing these twelve disciples, the Lord Jesus is saying in essence, 'I'm going to create a New Israel, and these are going to be the elders of My New Israel.' Thus in God's presence in haven of God stands twenty-four thrones and twenty-four elders (Rev. 4:4,10; 5:8,14; 11:6; 19:4).

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Today, the church stands as God's own people (1 Peter 2:9), May we live in holiness and godliness that we might be a testimony to the unbelieving world by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.