

Mt.10.5-15 - The Messiah's Undershepherds; Principles for Effective Ministry
Matthew Series: 'THE KING IS COMING' #142
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The apostles were the original **missionaries**.

✚ The basic concepts apply to every believer the Lord sends out into ministry.

Jesus' purpose for this first apostolic mission was twofold:

First, it was for the sake of the **lost**,

... To give them **opportunity**.

Second, it was for the benefit of the **twelve** themselves,

...To give them **training**

In vv.5–15 Jesus articulates several principles which are a general requirement for effective ministry.

I. A DIVINE COMMISSION v.5A

The **twelve** had were under **divine orders**.

Three criteria can help a believer decide whether or not he is called into the Lord's service:

The **first** criterion is **strong** desire.

One's **life** must be centered on joyous **obedience** & one's **motive** must be **God-honoring**.

Our desires are His desires.

A **second** criterion is the **confirmation** of the Church.

A **third** criterion for determining God's call is that of **opportunity**.

❖ God does not require **creativity** or innovation in His ministers, but obedience and faithfulness.

❖ The minister is not a chef but a **waiter**.

"Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel"

I Co.9.16

The most essential element for ministry is the unqualified understanding that one is **sovereignly** called.

Their concern ... must be to **submit** to Christ in **all** things.

Mt. 10.5-15 The Messiah's Undershepherds

1. The apostles **extend** the Messiah's **ministry** (10.5–8)

a. The Messiah is a **Shepherd-King** who **gathers** Israel's lost sheep (Ez.34.23–24)

b. The Messiah is a **shepherd** who **heals** Israel's sick and wounded sheep (Ez.34.4, 16)

c. The apostles announce the **coming** of the Shepherd-King (10.5–7)

d. The apostles heal Israel's sick and wounded **sheep** (10.8)

2. The apostles **depend** on the Messiah's **provision** (10.9–10)

3. The apostles **offer** the Messiah's message and **blessing** (10.11–13)

4. The apostles **proclaim** the Messiah's **judgment** (10.14–15)