**Twelve – Wk 10 – Matthew – The Outcast Sinner**

**We are walking in the footsteps of the disciples - exploring standout moments in their life with Jesus as we learn about being a disciple.**

**Matthew 10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. 2 The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.**

**THE TWELVE: All four gospels and Acts list the twelve.**

**1. Simon (Peter) - Son of Jonah / 2. Andrew (Simon's brother)**

**3. James - Son of Zebedee / 4. John (James’s brother)**

**5. Philip / 6. Bartholomew (Nathanael)**

**7. Matthew (Levi) / 8. Thomas (Didymus = the twin)**

**9. James / 10. Jude (Judas/Joses/Thaddeus)**

**11. Simon (the Zealot) / 12. Judas Iscariot (the traitor)**

**They were called disciples and became Apostles.**

**They were not the most gifted or qualified, but God took these ordinary people and did extraordinary things.**

**Today, the outsider – and possibly the most misunderstood.**

**Last week, we celebrated the greatest moment in human history – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But what do we do now?**

**He appeared in the hundreds (11 appearances) over 40 days. Jesus was clear – the mission was just starting.**

**But first - let’s take a look at the “what now” apostle.**

**Matthew – What we know:**

* **Also known as Levi, Son of Alpheus (Mt 9:9,10:3, Mk 2:14, Lk 5:27)**
* **Jewish Tax collector of Rome, despised, notorious sinner, outcast.**
* **He knew multiple languages and was very articulate and educated.**
* **After becoming a disciple, he had to work alongside Zealots.**
* **He authored the most read and copied Gospel in antiquity.**
* **His Gospel is directed towards Jewish people contains more OT references than the other gospels (99 quotes).**

**Matthews invitation - Matthew 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.**

**He worked in Capernaum – Jesus' current place of residence.**

**Jesus would have paid him taxes and Matt heard Jesus preach**

**They most likely knew of each other and had seen each other.**

**He knew that - once he walked away, that was it – no going back.**

**Luke 9:62 - Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

**He knew what he was leaving, but his tortured soul was ready for peace and purpose.**

**(Mark 12 / Luke 5 tell us Matt had a party that night) 10 And as Jesus reclined at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”**

**Matthew, excited about his new relationship with Jesus, invited to dinner the only people he knew - other tax collectors, criminals, riffraff, prostitutes, and scoundrels.**

**12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

**Lukes account - Luke 5:27 After this, he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi (Matthew), sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” 28 And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.**

**29 And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. 30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.” (Matt 21:31-32, Luke 7:34, 19:2-10)**

**\*\*\* Jesus loves the outcasts and the rejected**

**This is a beautiful and faithful image of Jesus – Jesus loves the outcast, neglected, abandoned, kicked to the curb, the sinner, and the guilty. The victim and victimizer. \*\* YOU \*\***

**- Are you an outcast?**

**\*\*\* Jesus had disdain for prideful and hypocritical religious people**

**Here and in many other references, Jesus is frustrated with the religious hypocrites who rejected those seeking forgiveness and placed the burden of works upon their shoulders.**

**- Are you a Pharisee?**

**\*\*\* Jesus came for everyone who sees themselves as broken**

**If you think you are fine, you will never know Jesus.**

**Matt 9:12 But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

**Good news - no one is “unfixable” for Jesus**

**As a Jewish Tax collector for Rome – Matt was despised / a traitor / the lowest of the low, he betrayed his own family, friends, and nation. Considered filthy and damned. He is considered a thief and liar.**

**The fact that Matthew had good friends with those who would be considered the worst of Capernaum, suggests he himself was one of questionable morals. You can imagine how scandalous his calling by Jesus might have been.**

**BUT - Matthew knew he was sick and needed healing.**

**The reality is - we are all sick. But only those who know this can be made whole. Matt 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. - Are you sick?**

**\*\*\* Jesus calls us to a new life, not the same life improved**

**Luke 5:31 And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”**

**The invitation is not to come as you are, and stay as you are; but to come as you are and turn around. Repent- new direction. - Matthew took this to heart!**

**As I said, Jesus made 11 appearances over the next 40 days.**

**Jesus was clear – the mission was just starting.**

**On one of those occasions, Matthew records this - Matthew 28:16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. (they’re amazed) 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” \*\* This is our - What now!**

**This is echoed in the other gospels and Acts:**

**Matt 4:19 - Jesus' invitation to follow, "come and I'll make you fishers of men."**

**Mark 16:15 He said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”**

**Luke 24:47 – “…the forgiveness of sins will be preached to every nation, beginning from Jerusalem.”**

**John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”**

**We are not merely saved for heaven’s sake and hell’s avoidance.**

**We are commissioned and unleashed w/purpose to tell the world**

**This Great Commission is the heart of God.**

**Every Believer's Mission – every believer’s purpose.**

**This is the purpose of every Christian.**

**Your purpose is not to accumulate wealth, build buildings, be famous, make art, be a great singer, or athlete. It is not to write books, be a speaker, teacher, scientist, or discover the cure for cancer. It is not to have a family or be a good mom or dad. Your purpose is not to make a difference by helping others. It is not about sustainable incomes, water wells, planting trees, or food distribution.**

**Mark 8:36 For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? 37 For what can a man give in return for his soul?**

**We tend to think that one of those is our purpose in life.**

**But what happens when you can’t sing anymore, or be an athlete? What do you do when your mind is not as sharp? When your health or fame fades, or your money is gone? What happens when your kids move out, or your spouse passes away? Those things can be meaningful in our life, but not our purpose.**

**These things were never meant to be our purpose – they are simply the platform for our purpose. Platform change, but bringing Glory to God in our life - knowing him and making his glory never changes! Let's unpack the Great Commission.**

**1. This mission is a command - Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

**Great Commission = both a command and a mission. This is our - What now! This is the great suggestion.**

**Notice the all’s (4). “All authority, all nations, all I commanded you, always with you” It is very definitive, authoritative, and absolute.**

**This is not the platinum plus Christian package.**

**2. This mission is to be intentional - Matt 28:19 Go therefore …**

**Something to plan for and do. God = GO. Satan = Sat.**

**When we leave our home, God use me today. When people are coming over – God use me today. Planning and follow-up.**

**Intentional movement to our neighborhood and the world.**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, (Daily mission) and in all Judea (Local mission) and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Global mission)**

**This is not a passive thing – it is intentional. By the HS power!**

**3. This mission is Gospel centered – 19 make disciples (followers of Jesus)**

**The Gospel is, by definition, news – good life-changing news!**

**This is evangelism – lit. “Sent with a message,” one who brings good news! This is what we are all called to do.**

**Jesus said Go and tell the world this news! The Good news:**

**Jesus the Savior, God in the flesh, has come to rescue you from sin and your separation from God. Good news – you can know God again!**

**He lived, died for our sins, was buried, rose again and is coming back again for those who believe and follow him!**

**Paul writes - Romans 10:14-17 – How will they know unless they are told…**

**This good news is something that must be told!**

**It must be heard or read! We must take it to the whole world!**

**It’s more than just loving people, smiling, and letting people go in front of you. It is a message that transforms the inside.**

**BTW - You want to be blessed according to God’s standard?**

**Romans 10:15 - And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"**

**A divine pedicure. But what if they don’t like me anymore?**

**4. This mission is about multiplication - 28:19 …make disciples…**

**The mission is not to make decisions, but to make disciples.**

**Leading them to Jesus and walking with them together…**

**\* A disciple = Mathetes - one who follows, student, learner (of Jesus). Simplified: One who hears the HS direction and obeys.**

**\* A disciple maker: one who helps others to hear what the HS is telling them and helps them to obey and follow (walk).**

**We are not called to make religious followers and little versions of ourselves, or church goers. Are you making Pharisees – or followers?**

**\* Do you want to see a true move of God? Pray and share the gospel to people near you, then walk with them – it multiplies.**

**I can multiply just so many – we are all to multiply.**

**5. This mission is for all people – 28:19…of all nations…**

**No one is excluded. The entire world. White, black, brown, all ethnicities, ages, economic backgrounds, or backgrounds.**

**Matthew knew this personally.**

**Racism has always been and will continue to be a sin.**

**6. This mission is not private – 28:19 …baptizing them…**

**Our faith is not personal, but public.**

**We walk it out in Jesus before others. No secret followers.**

**Baptism is a picture of the cross, burial, and resurrection. When we are baptized, we tell others that we believe it.**

**We are embracing the glorious, good news!! We are saying we are dying to self and living a new live in Christ.**

**Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (This is promise and a warning)**

**Salvation is by faith! (Eph 2:8-9) This is not suggesting that we are saved by Baptism. Emphasis is on “Believes” – notice who is condemned… the one who does not believe.**

**Baptism is the follow through act of faith – the, “I am in!! It is an act of obedience to Jesus. \*\* If you have not been baptized, it is time!**

**7. This mission emphasizes doctrine**

**28:19 …in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**This speaks directly to the trinitarian doctrine of God.**

**What we believe matters. There are true & false. Hold tight essentials.**

**Walking with God is not just a matter of loving Jesus and others but also walking in the truth of Jesus.**

**Acts 2:42 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching (didaché - doctrine) and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

**Knowing there is truth… and there are lies. Understanding that there is right and wrong. Good teaching and false teaching.**

**Theology matters. So many Christians believe wacky stuff – simply because they do not know the Bible for themselves.**

**8. This mission takes time - 20 …teaching them to observe (obey)…**

**Teaching - making disciples - takes time & patience – it is not instant. No info dumps - it includes walking w/ people in patient relationships.**

**Teaching disciples to obey Jesus - not just believe in Jesus.**

**This is a process of growth. Changes in the way we think. This also tells us disciples are teachable.**

**We will do this our whole life. With others and with ourselves.**

**9. This mission includes the tough stuff**

**28:20 …teaching them to observe (obey) all that I have commanded you.**

**That means - God’s word cover to cover**

**When one picks and chooses what to obey, teach, or believe - we do an injustice to discipleship and present a false gospel.**

**This also means we will not water down the message.**

**The Problem of Consumer Truth (2 Tim 4:1-5) - We live in a consumer culture – churches are careful to give what people want. In a desire to win converts some have made Jesus convenient – or a self-centered faith. Watering down the tough stuff and the sacrifices of following Jesus.**

**This mission is about transformation, not just information.**

**Life change, not just right beliefs and walking w/ people thru this.**

**10. This mission is powered by our ever-present Jesus**

**28:20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**

**We will never be alone in this mission or life. Jesus is with us always! At home – work – school – we are never alone! He has not left us – he is ever present. If the world leaves me, He won’t!**

**If you are a follower of Jesus this is our mission. If you choose to accept it life will be exciting, adventurous, and meaningful.**

**Some sow, some reap - HS works in, draws in, does heart work**

**What happened to Matthew?**

* **He authored Matthew – possibly the first Gospel written.**
* **He dedicated the first half of his ministry (12 yrs) to local missions**
* **He took the Gospel to Persia, Ethiopia, Egypt.**
* **It is recorded he was stabbed in the back while worshiping (speared) and then beheaded AD 60.**

**\*\* He took the Gospel to the nations! He made very moment count.**

**Life’s moments are fleeting, and the mission is urgent**

**I'll wait until… Jesus says people are dying on the vine.**

**Matt 9 – The harvest is plentiful, labors are few. Pray for laborers.**

**John 4:35 – The harvest is ripe and ready for picking.**

**Jam 4:14 – life is a vapor / Ps 144:4 Man is like a breath… a fleeting shadow.**

**Start now – today. Start at home and work your way out.**

**If you are not a Christian – you have only one purpose – know God. Know his goodness and grace. Seek him and you will find him.**

**Nothing else will make sense until you do.**