

# "Freely You Have Received; Freely Give" - Matthew 10 Handout

## 1. What's happening?

### Overview:

Jesus sends out the Twelve Apostles to extend His mission — to preach, heal, and bring the good news of the kingdom of heaven.

**Structure:** vv. 1–4 — Jesus calls and names the Twelve. vv. 5–15 — Instructions for the mission to Israel. vv. 16–25 — Warnings of persecution. vv. 26–33 — Encouragement to be fearless. vv. 34–42 — The cost and reward of discipleship.

**Key Words & Imagery:** "Sheep among wolves" — vulnerability and innocence. "The kingdom of heaven has come near" — God's rule is breaking into the present (*ēngiken* = "has drawn close"). "Take up your cross" — total surrender to Christ's mission. "Peace" — wholeness and reconciliation (carries the Hebrew idea of *shalom*).<sup>[1]</sup> "Worthy" (*axios*) — having weight or value through faithful allegiance.

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## 2. What's the setting?

The second of the [five discourses](#) in Matthew's gospel (after the Sermon on the Mount).<sup>[2]</sup> It's the "Mission Discourse", preparing the disciples to carry on Jesus' work.

**Historical Context:** *Jewish* expectations: The Messiah would restore Israel politically. Jesus' correction: The kingdom spreads through service, suffering, and proclamation, not violence. *Roman* rule: The "Pax Romana" (peace through control) contrasts with the peace of Christ (peace through reconciliation). *Apocalyptic* hopes: People longed for deliverance; Jesus announces it is already arriving through Him.

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## 3. What does it mean?

**What is the kingdom like?** *Present:* "The kingdom has come near." *Costly:* Following Jesus brings rejection and division. *Transformative:* It brings healing, peace, and new priorities. *Participatory:* The disciples share in Jesus' authority and mission.

**In light of the Old Testament:** *Daniel 2:44* — God's kingdom will outlast all others. *Isaiah 9* — The Prince of Peace reigns with justice. Jesus fulfils these not by force, but by self-giving love.

**Present and Future:** The kingdom is both "*already*" (experienced now through mission and obedience) and "*not yet*" (awaiting full realisation when Christ returns).

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## 4. What does this mean for us?

**As Kingdom Citizens:** *Mission-focused*: We are sent to share good news through word and deed. *Dependent on God*: Trust in His provision; travel light. *Courageous*: “Do not fear” — our worth is secure with the Father. *Loyal to Christ*: Allegiance to Jesus comes before all else. *Peace-bringers*: We offer *shalom* wherever we go.

**For the Church’s Identity and Mission:** The Church is a sent community, not a passive audience. Expect both fruit and friction — blessing and opposition. Success is not safety but faithful obedience. Every act of kindness (“even a cup of cold water”) reflects the kingdom’s heart.

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**Summary:** The King sends His followers as vulnerable yet empowered ambassadors to bring healing, proclaim peace, endure suffering, and display the love of Christ.

“**Freely you have received; freely give.**” — *Matthew 10.8*

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## Notes

What surprises, confuses, challenges or inspires you?

What will you study further?

What will you do with what you have learned on Monday?

What have you learned about God, the Father, Jesus or the Spirit?

What have you learned about yourself?

What have you learned about the church?

What have you learned about the kingdom?

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1. For more on 'shalom': <https://www.malcolmcox.org/shalom/> ↩

2. For more on the five discourses: <https://www.malcolmcox.org/the-five-discourses-in-matthews-gospel/> ↩