

## **Combines - Matthew 10:1-4**

### **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

#### **Notes from the Sermon**

They were really just 12 ordinary men. Maybe even less than ordinary. Four of them were fisherman, one a tax collector, and the rest, well, we don't even know their careers. In a few cases the Bible gives us some detail about their lives and personalities. On the other hand, for a few of them, we know very little except their name. One of them was a skeptic and even a thief from the start, and would eventually betray Jesus. The rest would abandon Jesus in the moment of his greatest need, with Peter outright denying knowing Him. There is no evidence that any of them were highly educated, had any position or social clout, or were even known or recognized before meeting Jesus. They were really a ragtag bunch. Yet, this group of men formed the first Christian small group. They were not really special, but the One they followed was and is.

We have the stories for how Jesus called them to follow for about half of these men. Generally, they were asked to leave everything (the fishing business, a tax booth, a previous teacher) and follow Jesus. While we don't have the stories for the rest we can assume that their calls to become disciples were similar. They left everything and attached themselves to Jesus as their rabbi. This was a dedication to learn the doctrine and follow the way of their master. For three years Jesus invested in these men in personal, intimate, and loving ways. While Jesus taught massive crowds, and in some ways invested Himself into larger bands of disciples, Jesus turned this group into a circle of apprentices and intentionally poured Himself into their lives. He taught them, even pulling them aside to give greater explanation after spending long days teaching and preaching to the crowds. He enjoyed meals and participated in the activities of Jewish spirituality with them. He taught them to pray, how to read the Scriptures, and that mercy and justice mattered. He included them in His amazing ministry, as they got a front row seat when Jesus healed, cast out demons, and raised the dead. As time went on Jesus even included them in these things. They became more than observers, they became participants in the great works Jesus was doing. As our text this week explains, "And He called to Him His twelve disciples. The first Christian small group. In the immediate previous passage, we are also told that Jesus invited them to see the masses through His eyes, to look on these huge crowds with compassion. They were sheep without a shepherd. Jesus was teaching them that their journey of discipleship was for a greater cause. He was investing in them because of the hurts and struggles of the crowds. To be a disciple meant seeing the crowds differently, not as outsiders, but as people who needed the love and care of their Master. So Jesus invited them to lift their eyes and see the fields, and to pray for the harvest.

For farmers, browning fields indicate that the time for harvest is near. They don't just wake up one day and decide to start, they have to get their combines ready for the task. Tune ups, cleanings, checking all the parts, putting the head on the tractor, these are all aspects of preparing these massive machines for their task of bringing the harvest home. The passage in Matthew 9-10 helps us see the importance of discipleship. Jesus invested in these men, but not just to fill their heads or give them a sense of importance. He invested in their lives because the harvest is plentiful. They were to be the combines. There is a massive clue for this in this text.

In verse 1 they are called "disciples". The word here means a pupil, learner, apprentice, follower. But in these cultures, a disciple was not just an apprentice of any idea or theory, a disciple was a person who attached him or herself to a specific Rabbi or guru, joining a small group of people to embrace the way of the master. But in verse 2 there is a language change. They are called the twelve apostles. Apostle means one who is sent out, an emissary or ambassador. The name change here means something. Yes, they were still

followers of Jesus, but the whole point of their discipleship was preparation for the mission. The small group would not end, but it took on a different focus, that of being a group of missionaries who saw that lostness was the greatest problem. And here is what happened. After the resurrection of Jesus, these men went on a disciple making quest, spreading out all over the world. They too preached to the masses, and even performed miracles. But they also started small groups, communities of followers who were disciples. Not disciples of Peter, James, Andrew, or Bartholomew. They were pursuing people who were ripe, included in God's great harvest, and then teaching them the Word and the ways of Jesus. That mission has been on repeat for 2,000 years, and here we are. Following Jesus deeply is about hearing the call and moving into a community of people who will prepare you for God's mission. This is the way.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Exodus 9	Exodus 10	Exodus 11	Exodus 12	Exodus 13	Exodus 14	Exodus 15

Reading from this past week's sermon: Matthew 10:1-4

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 9:26-37, 10:5-16

### **Family Worship**

Song - *Come and Welcome*

<https://youtu.be/rnB9k2pHvLA?feature=shared>

#### **Gospel Project**

Unit: King Solomon

Story: Wisdom of God's People

Big Picture Question: What does God know?

Answer: God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Scripture: Proverbs 1:3-4

#### **New City Catechism**

Question 36: What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

Answer: That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son.

Verse: John 14:16-17

#### **Matthew 10:1-4**

- What does the word "disciple" mean? What did this look like in their lives? In ours?
- What do you know about these 12 men? Why did Jesus choose them? What made them special?
- Why would Matthew change his language about these men from "disciple" in verse 1 to "apostles" in verse 2? How is this language applied only to them? On the other hand, what does this language mean for us?
- Do you believe you can be a genuine and deep follower of Jesus without being in a circle of discipleship somewhere? Why or why not?

### **Prayer**

\*Pray that our groups would be places where people grow in their discipleship, and pray that people will see the importance of being in a group.

\*Pray for our partners at the Missouri Baptist Convention and their mission work around the state, including the Baptist Children's Home, disaster care, and Missouri Baptist University.