

## Matthew 10:5-15

### The Call of the King to Proclaim

Let me pray for us

What gets you out of bed in the morning?  
Every bland day in lockdown life looks like every other day in lock down?  
It's hard to find the motivation to get up isn't it?  
What gets you out of bed,  
tells you what is important to you?

1990s supermodel Linda Evangelista  
once made this notorious quote about herself and her fellow supermodel Christy Turlington  
"We have this saying, Christy and I  
We don't wake up for less than \$10,000 a day"  
Maybe like Linda, it's money that gets you motivated

Maybe it's the new release on Netflix  
Or watching the Olympics  
Not great examples because you still watch these from your bed  
Maybe it's the needs of your children that are important?  
Maybe for those sickeningly motivated people  
It's the desire to exercise or to achieve their goals

The apostle Paul once said this in 1 Corinthians 15  
<sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our  
sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third  
day according to the Scriptures

The thing that got the apostle Paul out of bed every morning  
Was the gospel of Jesus Christ  
A message that saved and transformed his own life  
A message that filled his prayers for others  
A message that he lived to proclaim to others  
Of *first importance* Paul says.

In last week's passage  
We heard of Jesus' compassion that led him to describe the crowd around him  
As harassed and helpless like sheep without a Shepherd  
And it was this compassion that led Jesus to pray  
To pray that God would raise workers for his harvest  
But what were these workers to do?  
They were to proclaim the gospel to others  
And that is what we will be looking at today

### **The Call of the King is to proclaim the gospel**

This morning we are going to be looking at the call of King to proclaim  
And this is what Jesus is saying to his followers in our passage in Matthew 10

**Proclaim the gospel**  
**Be prepared for peace or judgement**

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We're going to look at each of these statements  
One by one

**Firstly let's look at proclaiming the gospel**

And we're going to answer these questions as we go

What is the gospel?

To whom are we to proclaim the gospel?

How should we proclaim the gospel?

And with what resources?

**Let's have a look at what this gospel is**

Having given his authority to the disciples

Jesus sends them out with this instruction

Verse 7

<sup>7</sup>As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

The disciples are to do what Jesus did in own his ministry

In chapter 9 verse 35 we see that the gospel

That is the good news of God's coming kingdom is central to what Jesus does

Repeatedly, we see this in the gospels

Jesus has come to preach this gospel

This gospel points people to the reality that Jesus is King

And that His kingdom is coming

And that people need to repent from sin and believe in Jesus the King

And not only is Jesus proclaiming this gospel

He is the content of this good news

His death and resurrection

Means our sin before God can be dealt with

By the time that the Apostle Paul is taking this gospel to non-Jews

It is clear how important this gospel is

1 Corinthians 15 verse 1

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

The ministry of the apostles is to proclaim the gospel

A gospel that they received from Jesus and is about Jesus

A gospel that can save people from sin and death

A gospel so important that clinging to it in faith is the only way to be saved

And our gospel is no different to the one that Paul is proclaiming

Because it has been passed down from generation to generation

And it is this same gospel that the Scriptures speak of.

**But secondly to whom should we preach the gospel?**

And here we see that our situation is a bit different to the apostles.  
In verse 5 Jesus tells them to focus on the lost sheep of Israel  
Now does that mean that Jesus is a bit of a racist?  
Of course not, we see that in John chapter 4  
It was Jesus himself who approached the Samaritan woman  
And on that day, many Samaritan people came to believe in Jesus  
It's not a matter of Jesus being biased,  
but there are stages in God's history of saving people  
The gospel goes first to the Jew, then to the Gentile

The apostle Paul says this very clearly in Romans 1:16  
[16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.](#)

And remember that Matthew's original audience  
Were most likely Jewish Christians  
And on this first missionary journey  
Jesus just wants the gospel to spread firstly from Galilee to the rest of Israel

But clearly Jesus had a bigger picture in mind  
By the end of Matthew's gospel  
He commissions the disciples to take the gospel to all nations  
Matthew 28:19  
[Therefore go and make disciples of all nations](#)  
And this command remains for us today  
Everyone, everywhere needs the gospel of Jesus Christ  
All sheep need their Shepherd

[The Olympics has finally started](#)  
[Proclaiming the gospel is like an Olympic torch relay](#)  
[The flame is received from one person](#)  
[And passed on to the next person](#)  
[For the Sydney Olympics](#)  
[The Olympic torch was passed through 1500 people](#)  
[in the South Pacific and New Zealand](#)  
[And then once it reached Australia](#)  
[11,000 people carried the flame around the country](#)  
[Until Cathy Freeman finished lighting the torch at Sydney's Olympic Stadium](#)

[You see every generation of believers in Jesus are to do the same](#)  
[We receive the gospel](#)  
[We pass it on to others](#)  
[In all corners of the world](#)  
[Until the race is finished when the King returns](#)

**How should the gospel be proclaimed?**

With clear displays of Jesus' power  
Verse 8

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

And again, just as Jesus was doing these signs and wonders  
The disciples have been given the authority to do the same  
And they went hand in hand with the gospel,  
These supernatural displays  
Were to show the power of God's kingdom breaking into the world  
But by the end of the gospel of Matthew  
We see that Jesus does not tell the disciples that the signs and wonders will be the key  
In Matthew 28  
Instead, Jesus says that teaching people to obey Jesus will be the key

So how should we think about this?

We are a church that emphasises the preaching and teaching of the gospel  
But often other churches are very focused on the supernatural stuff  
The danger of focussing on the supernatural and not the preaching of the gospel  
Is that the *miracles* don't lead to lasting faith  
In fact, the Pharisees saw Jesus do the miraculous,  
But it did not lead to faith in Jesus at all  
Expecting God to do the miraculous whenever you want  
At best, can lead to a sort of shallow consumeristic faith

But there can also be another danger,  
and that is believing that Jesus no longer does the miraculous

Years ago, I attended a conference and I met two Nepalese men  
Who were evangelists in the beautiful Pokhara region of Nepal  
I've blanked out their faces for security reasons  
But they told me how they walked from village to village in Nepal to share the gospel  
And they actually showed me how they shared the gospel in a sort of simple drama  
Because many people were illiterate in these remote villages  
One of them would do actions while the other would share the message with spoken words  
But they told me how often they were frustrated  
because although their priority was to share the gospel  
The first thing they often had to do was to drive out evil spirits and heal the sick  
Often because the local witch doctor  
would be yelling at them because he was possessed by an evil spirit  
And to be able to share the gospel they had to quiet the evil spirit first  
And so there were involved in these displays of the much greater power of Jesus  
Over the power of Satan and his kingdom of darkness  
And after this happened, people saw their power  
And would then bring their sick people for them to pray over  
And when they shared these things with me  
It reminded me so much of what we read in the gospels  
Of course these things can still happen today  
But it also struck me  
That the priority for these two men  
Was sharing the gospel first  
And the signs and wonders were only secondary

**With what resources should we proclaim the gospel?**

Verse 8

Freely you have received; freely give. <sup>9</sup> “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— <sup>10</sup> no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave.

Jesus wants the disciples to travel light in their missionary journey.

The motto of the Scouts is Be Prepared

Be prepared for every situation

But Jesus is saying here the very opposite

Be dependent

Be dependent on God

Bring enough

Just the clothes and shoes you're wearing

Don't even bring a bag or money

Three principles stand out in these verses

Here's one

**You never charge people for sharing the gospel with them**

You received the gospel for free and you share it with others for free

That's what Jesus says in verse 8

Here's another principle

**The more prepared you are**

**The less likely you are to depend on God**

In the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6

Jesus taught the disciples to pray

Give us this day our daily bread

It is God who provides us with what we need everyday

Including providing for us when we share the gospel

And God can do that through the generosity of other people

As we see in verse 11

He can raise other people who can provide a living for those who share the gospel

And In verse 10, Jesus established an important principle

**A worker is worth his keep**

That word *keep* is important

Jesus is not talking about a *wage*

Churches don't pay pastors a wage but a stipend

A wage is a payment for work done

But a stipend is a payment so that someone can live

And that's an important difference

For example, pastors are not paid performance-based incentives

Imagine what that would do to the gospel

You get what you pay for

And you get more bang for your buck

So we should incentivise pastors to grow the church through their performance

That's not how Jesus works

He is not profit driven

He is people driven

A gospel worker doesn't do overtime for more money  
A gospel worker does it for Jesus and for His people  
But the gospel worker does have a *right* to a living.

If you have ever benefitted from someone proclaiming the gospel to you  
They have a right to a living  
And you might be in a position to pay them for their living  
And think of those who take the gospel to communities  
who can't afford to pay them a living  
Think of missionaries who go to much poorer communities  
Gospel generosity also leads you to pay a living for those missionaries  
Dave and Cathy Walter are AFES workers with the Christian Union groups in Queensland  
And the South Pacific  
But when I was a uni student  
Dave met with me  
Opened the bible with me  
And taught me the gospel for the majority of my uni life  
And when I graduated I made the commitment to support Dave and Cathy financially  
And that is something Emma and I have done since 1999  
Why? Because a worker is worth his keep

On the flipside of this,  
I have had potential missionaries ask me if it's wrong for them to buy a house  
Is Jesus saying that anyone who decides to proclaim the gospel  
Should never save or invest for the future?  
Because wouldn't that be a sign of not depending on God

Again we have to read the bible in light of other passages in the bible  
In 1 Timothy 6, Paul says that a believer should provide for their household  
Their own relatives  
Not doing so, brings disrepute to Jesus  
There is no such thing as let go and let God  
In fact that can be a shameful excuse for not fulfilling your responsibility  
Christians should *diligently* provide for their families  
And Proverbs 13 goes one step further to say that a good person  
Leaves an inheritance for future generations.  
So the thing I have said to potential missionaries  
If you're in a position to buy a house before you become a missionary  
Then there can be wisdom in buying a house  
To provide for yourself or for your family  
Especially when you come back from the mission field

But don't let that be the reason holding you back from going  
Especially looking at house prices in Melbourne  
If Jesus is convicting you to go and share the gospel  
Then it can be easy to find reasons to put this off  
It may mean that you never go.

As challenging as this pandemic has been on all people  
We living in Australia have been incredibly fortunate

compared to so many around the world  
But we should not come to love the material comfort we are blessed with  
We have to take the warning seriously in Scripture  
The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil  
Houses will not provide us with lasting security only the gospel can  
Love of material things will lead us to destruction

Earlier this year, my family visited the Freshstart Presbyterian church plant in Donnybrook  
And there are a number of people from Bundy who are part of this church plant  
But what encouraged me was that for a number of these households  
The gospel is what shaped their house buying decision.  
If you go out to Donnybrook now  
There is nothing there right now  
Mostly, empty housing lots  
A few farms still  
Just one school  
No hospitals or medical centres  
No shopping centres  
It will take years for there to be the infrastructure we enjoy in established suburbs  
But tens of thousands of people will be moving into that suburb  
People who need to hear the gospel  
And that is why followers of Jesus are choosing to live there

**Proclaiming the gospel leads to two very different responses  
And we need to be prepared for both**

**The first response is peace**

In verse 11

<sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.

When Jesus talks about a person being worthy here  
He's not talking about them being a deserving person, or a good person  
He's talking about their receptiveness to the apostles and their message  
Receiving those that Jesus has authorised is to receive Jesus himself  
And as was the custom in the day  
The apostles were to bless households with a greeting of peace  
The measure of whether Jesus' peace would remain on that household  
Was determined on whether they continued to be receptive to the gospel  
Peace is one response to the gospel

Lasting peace is what the gospel of Jesus offers

Colossians 1 verse 19 says

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (that is Jesus), <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Jesus' death on the cross brings real and lasting peace with God  
God's anger at our sin has been dealt with  
And this is what is on offer when the gospel is proclaimed  
But only for those who are receptive to this message

Those who welcome the free gift that is offered and receive it with thankful faith

But in contrast,  
To those who reject the apostles and the gospel  
There is judgement

Verse 14

<sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

To reject the gospel and those who bring the gospel  
Is to reject Jesus  
There are consequences for rejecting the King  
Eventually if you say no to the King He will say no to you

It was a custom for very religious Jews  
Every time they left a Gentile territory and re-entered a Jewish territory  
To shake the dust off their sandals  
It was a way of saying that they didn't want anything to do  
with the pagan practises of the Gentiles  
Who sat under the judgement of God

Jesus is saying that shaking the dust of your feet  
Was something the apostles would adopt as a warning of judgement  
to anyone who rejected the gospel  
And this is what the apostle Paul did in Acts 13

<sup>49</sup> The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. <sup>51</sup> So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium.

To reject Jesus and his gospel is a serious thing.  
It means that you remain under his judgement  
And to bring home this message of judgement  
Jesus uses the example of Sodom and Gomorrah  
Cities synonymous in the bible for great sin and wickedness  
Cities that Lot and his children barely escaped from when God judged them  
In the book of Genesis  
We read of God bringing down his fiery judgement on Sodom and Gomorrah

Remember that the disciples are going to Jewish people on this journey  
Talk of this kind of judgement on Jewish people who reject Jesus  
Would have been as unpalatable a message  
As any talk of judgement today in our culture

There is no way a Jewish person in the time of Jesus  
Could ever have thought of themselves as being like Sodom and Gomorrah  
And yet here Jesus is saying to his own people  
That's right – even you who reject the gospel



Sit under God's judgement  
A judgement that is *even worse*  
Than that of Sodom and Gomorrah

We forget don't we,  
That words of judgement come out of the mouth of Jesus  
Talk of hell  
Talk of God's wrath against our sin  
God's anger remaining on those who reject His gospel

But if Jesus is King  
Then he has the right to be treated as King  
And if we say no to Jesus,  
eventually He will give us what we want  
and we will face the consequences for our sin

It's an unpopular message today  
But you know what, it makes Jesus real  
You see often we want people around us who tell us what we want to hear  
Who never disagree with us  
And we think that is loving  
In fact we cancel people out of our lives when they don't agree with us  
We want a relationship on our terms  
But that's not real relationship is it?

Jesus is far better than this  
The relationship he offers is real  
He is compelling, confronting and comforting  
He is the most compelling person you will ever meet  
People were drawn to him like they were drawn to no other and they still are today  
He is the most confronting person you will ever meet – Did he just say that to me?  
And he is the most comforting person you will ever meet  
Welcoming even those whom you would reject

Even in the passages we have been looking at these last two Sundays  
Jesus is the Compassionate Shepherd who brings peace to the lost  
But he is also the King who brings judgement for sin  
And The cross of Christ tells us how committed Jesus is to both peace and judgement

And so when we proclaim the gospel of Christ  
We must not sell the real Jesus short  
We must not emphasise the peace of Jesus at the expense of His judgement  
And neither must we emphasise judgement at the expense of peace

### **Let me tie some application together**

#### **Proclaim don't Perspire**

You see whenever there is talk of proclaiming the gospel  
Any talk of evangelism and most of you listening  
Start to sweat

We are stressed about sharing the gospel for all sorts of reason

Let me say why you don't need to sweat for one important reason  
And that's the *result* of evangelism  
I want you to notice in the passage today  
Jesus tells his disciples to proclaim the gospel  
But he doesn't tell them that they are responsible for the result  
Whether people are receptive and it ends in peace  
Or whether they reject the gospel and remain under judgement  
Has nothing to do with the responsibility of the apostles  
Their role is simply to proclaim the gospel  
In other words, don't sweat the stuff that's outside of your control  
Your job is simply to share Christ with others.  
We often make evangelism harder than it needs to be.  
We make ourselves the focus  
It's up to me  
I need to get it right  
The focus of sharing the gospel is actually Jesus  
It's his gospel  
It comes with his power not ours  
And all we have to do is share Jesus with others

I'm going to give you some homework:

I want you to answer this question.

**What does Jesus mean to you?**

If Jesus is important to you  
If he makes a difference to your life  
You should be able to explain why he's important to you  
See if you can do that this afternoon  
Write down on a piece of paper  
Or type down on your phone  
Why he's so important to you  
Better still,  
Once you've done that  
Practice sharing that with someone living in your household  
Why Jesus is important to you  
Then pray for God to bring an opportunity in your life  
to share that explanation with someone who is yet to meet Jesus

**Here's another application**

**Proclamation of the gospel is a team sport**

Proclaiming the gospel is less like golf and more like AFL  
You see if evangelism is like golf  
Then you do it on your own  
You just get one pro who wins all the majors  
One super gifted individual and they are the one who does all the evangelism

But you see what Jesus does  
He chooses a team – twelve disciples and he sends them out  
You sharing this gospel is not just about one person doing the work  
All of us are part of that team

An AFL team has 18 players  
Not to mention interchange players and substitutes  
But that's just on field  
Off the field is the senior coach  
Line coaches, physios, team doctors  
Strength and conditioning people  
Sports science and nutrition specialists  
Psychologists  
There's a board and a chairperson  
There's an operations manager  
A CEO  
A membership department  
A marketing and communications department  
I could go on but you get the picture  
To win a premiership is very challenging,  
Just ask a St Kilda supporter  
But in order to win a premiership  
Everyone on the team needs to do their part  
And it is the same with evangelism

Chris Shaw, one of our pastors  
Runs our Christianity Explored course  
Where people get to hear the gospel  
Often for the first time  
But not everyone is gifted for the evangelism Chris does  
But everyone has a role on the team  
People are brought by friends to attend this course  
Friends who have often prayed for years  
Chris uses bible study and video resources created by others  
Chris has run that course with Jo and Ellie helping him  
This is a team sport

Here I am teaching the bible to you now through a livestream from an empty building  
And the fact I can do this requires a team  
It requires Cat to maintain this website you're watching from  
Andrew to create the YouTube stream  
Dave and James to operate the cameras and the livestream  
Paul to operate the sound  
And I'm doing this from a building that is maintained by our board  
Run with finances provided by this congregation  
Proclaiming the gospel is a team sport.  
And there is a place for you on the team  
Don't just watch as a spectator.  
Ask, what can I do on the team?  
Then come to one of the pastors and we will help you find a way to serve on the team.

**Last question: Is the gospel of first importance?**

Jake Bilardi was an intelligent and articulate student

But he was bullied at school and described as a loner by classmates  
In 2012, Jake's mother died of cancer  
And the final steps of his radicalisation were nearing completion  
After years of research on Islam, he said this on his blog:  
I was growing tired of the corruption and filthiness of Australian society and yearned to live  
under the Islamic State with the Muslims.  
He joined Islamic State Fighters and fled to Iraq in August 2014  
In 2015, as an 18 year old,  
Jake Bilardi carried out a failed suicide bomb attack in Baghdad  
Killing only himself  
Where do you think Jake grew up?  
Craigieburn, just 20 minutes drive from here in Bundoora  
I remember feeling heartbroken hearing Jake's story  
And I thought at the time,  
If only someone could have invited Jake to our Youth Group  
Where he would have been welcomed with love by our youth leaders  
Where he would have heard the good news of Jesus  
His Shepherd  
The King who gave his life for Him  
Jake would have heard a message of welcome by Jesus  
A message of grace  
Not the message of rejection he received at high school  
Not the lies of false shepherds that used him and threw him away  
Maybe, just maybe, Jake's path could have been very different

Is the gospel of first importance?  
Of course it is  
Is the gospel worth getting out of bed for?  
Of course it is  
It is a message of lasting hope  
Of eternal life  
Of forgiveness  
Of unfailing love  
It is a message that saves and transforms people  
But is the gospel of first importance to you?

Let me pray.