



“Go make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:19-20)

Word Wednesday Lesson 29 - Missionary Minded – Matthew 9:27-10:16

<p>APOSTLE (ἀπόστολος, <i>apostolos</i>). Someone, or something, sent. Derived from the verb “to send out” (ἀποστέλλειν, <i>apostellein</i>). In the New Testament, usually refers to someone sent as an authorized agent by Jesus or the Christian community (Matt 10:2; 2 Cor 8:23; Heb 3:1).</p> <p>In the New Testament, “apostle” is sometimes employed to indicate a messenger (e.g., John 13:16). More often it refers to a person sent out as an authorized agent, either of Jesus or, in the early missionary work, of a distinguished congregation. This may be related to the rabbinic use of “emissary” or “sent one” (שְׁלִיחַ, <i>shaliach</i>), which refers to someone who is authorized to act on behalf of another and represents the authority of that person.</p> <p><i>The Lexham Bible Dictionary</i></p>	<p>KINGDOM OF GOD Concept of God’s kingly or sovereign rule, encompassing both the realm over which rule is exerted (Matt. 4:8; 24:7; Mark 6:23; Luke 4:5; Rev. 16:10) and the exercise of authority to reign (Luke 19:12; Rev. 17:12, 17–18). The kingdom of God is significant in the nation of Israel, the proclamation of the gospel, and the presence of the church. The idea is a point of integration for both Testaments.</p> <p>God’s kingdom may be understood in terms of “reign” or “realm.” Reign conveys the fact that God exerts His divine authority over His subjects/kingdom. Realm suggests location, and God’s realm is universal. God’s reign extends over all things. He is universally sovereign over the nations, humankind, the angels, the dominion of darkness and its inhabitants, and even the cosmos, individual believers, and the church.</p> <p>The kingdom of God encompasses the past, present, and future. The kingdom of God is “already” present but “not yet” fully completed, both a present and future reality. The kingdom was inaugurated in the incarnation, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. God’s kingdom blessings are in some measure possessed now. People presently find and enter God’s kingdom. God is now manifesting His authoritative rule in the lives of His people. God’s kingdom, however, awaits its complete realization. His people still endure sufferings and tribulations. When fully consummated, hardships will cease. Kingdom citizens currently dwell alongside inhabitants of the kingdom of darkness. God will eventually dispel all darkness. The final inheritance of the citizens of God’s kingdom is yet to be fully realized. The resurrection body for life in the eschatological kingdom is a blessing awaiting culmination.</p> <p><i>Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary</i></p>
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Memory Verse #29: Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be as wary as serpents, and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16).

Lesson notes & questions:

Lesson Reflections (review before Apply nights):

- What is at least one new thing I learned about loving God or my neighbor?
- Which topics would I like to know more about or need clarification?
- How does the Holy Spirit want me to apply the lesson’s Scripture to my discipleship?



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APPLY!

- Share any “Lesson Reflections” with the group. Recite this lesson’s memory verse and discuss what it means to you.
- **Jesus heals the blind men: Matthew 9:27-31**
 - How does Matthew present the faith of those needing healing (see v. 18 for the ruler, v 21 for the woman, and v 28 for the blind men)?
- **Reactions to demon cast out: Matthew 9:32-34**
 - Although they are correct, what is potentially dangerous about the crowd’s response in verse 33? (Discuss, then see **Acts 8:9-11** for a case study).
 - Biblically, what should our response be if we see something supernatural by someone claiming to be from God? (See **1 John 4:1-2**).
- **Sheep without a shepherd: Matthew 9:35-38**
 - What do we learn about ourselves from this passage?
 - What do we learn about loving our neighbors, including disagreeable ones, from this passage?
 - Read and reflect on **Psalm 23**.
 - What are our roles, individually and collectively, as laborers, and what are we doing to train additional laborers for the harvest?
 - Why do you suppose Jesus instructed the disciples to pray for workers rather than for the lost they would encounter? What is the lesson for us?
- **Apostles sent: Matthew 10:1-16**
 - How does “the gospel” as Jesus proclaimed it differ from the one Christians usually proclaim (“Believe in Jesus so you can go to heaven when you die”)? Review the definition of “Kingdom of God” on page 1. Why is it important for us that we live knowing the Kingdom is here and now, and not merely something in the future?
 - Refer to the definition of “Apostle” on page 1. What parallels are there between the disciples’ mission and Jesus’ own mission?
 - Have we been similarly commissioned, or was this a one-time event for the 12 Apostles only?
 - How are you “freely giving”?
- **What do you want to remember and apply from this lesson?**
- **Spend the last five minutes in prayer pairs**
 - Pray that God would raise up workers for the harvest in Bonham.
 - Praise for answered prayers, growth, and how God is working in your life
 - Petitions for specific challenges and intercessions for others