

REJECTED FOR THE GOSPEL

Matthew 10.1-20, 40-42

THE SENDING OF THE 12

Matthew 10.1-15, 40-42

Jesus is sending His disciples out, and letting them know that some will receive them, and some will reject them. His primary goal is for them to reach the Jews, primarily to show, once again, that God has been faithful to "strive with them" (Israel means "strives with God"), though they will, once again, reject Him. But, as we know, God shows His ultimate grace and mercy by remaining faithful.

So...concerning Jesus' words to His disciples, He knows the nature of the human heart, and so He makes it clear that just as He has been rejected for generations, so also will His disciples be rejected.

WISE AS SERPENTS, INNOCENT AS DOVES

Matthew 10.16-20

How are we to be "wise as serpents, but innocent as doves"?

- **We're to "go" indiscriminately:** to the least, last, and lost. (verse 1, 8, cf. 28.18-20)
- **We're to not be cynical:** we believe in God's power to save the lost, love the unlovely
- **We're to be gentle and gracious:** we don't battle flesh and blood, and our weapons are spiritual. (Ephesians 6.12)
- **We're to be wise, not naïve:** living by faith also doesn't mean being foolish or naïve. We must pray for discernment and wisdom in all things.

**Truth without love will crush someone.
Love without truth will enable someone.**

Error #1: Wise as Serpents, but with No Innocence:

We make the goal to win arguments and be proven right. But we are not here to win arguments, but to win hearts. We don't fight against mere brain power and logic, there are heart issues and spiritual blindness going on. So, though we do engage in logical conversations, aiming to show people truth, we do it with compassion, love, and prayer.

Error #2: Innocent as Doves, but without Wisdom:

Too often, Christians believe that being humble and gentle means being blind or needing to always err on the side of acquiescence, accepting things that should not be accepted. We think that being a Christian means being a doormat.

On one hand, we know we can't argue or logically convince someone into the Kingdom of God, but on the other hand, their heart can't be broken by the Spirit of God without hearing the truth that can set them free.

SO HOW CAN WE BE READY FOR THIS?

We need to know that the Holy Spirit wants us to be equipped to be this for people. Jesus poured into 12 for the sake of the world, and these 12 started locally. And He pours into us for the sake of the world.

**We must be rooted in the Word,
so that it becomes our second language.**

NOTES:

Points for Prayer

Pray for Others Who are Wanting to be Rooted in the Gospel. Growing in faith in fasting and prayer is not easy. It most often starts off as a duty or a chore, something that "feels" very unspectacular. As many of us have kicked off a new year with new hopes to be in the Word, prayer, and community more, often our early failures discourage us greatly. Pray for those who are aiming for these new habits and lifestyle, that this time would be fruitful in their spirit, even if they don't see instant outward "results." Being rooted in the Gospel is about nearness with God over the long haul, giving it opportunity to change us over time.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We're so glad you joined us today! We'd LOVE for you to **fill out the green Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our **teammates in a Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to **grab some food or coffee** out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our Kids on Mission classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a **faithful servant** behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll **build friendships**, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity should never be fueled by obligation or guilt; it should be motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call Life Mission your Home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. **Thank you so much for your love & support!**

KIDS ON MISSION

Our Kids are incredibly important to us! The Kids on Mission ministry has classrooms for **newborns - 6th grade** & is passionately overseen by **Audra Napolitano**. Please Visit lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our Junior High students (**7th & 8th graders**) worship with the adults, and then head to their class for the rest of service. We challenge them to **dig deeper into what they learned on Sunday** throughout the week.

Our **High School students** stay in the adult service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at hbarnes5@yahoo.com or **John Hawthorne** at hawthorne-john@hotmail.com

SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

CONTACT US:

Jobey McGinty // Lead Pastor
jobey@lifemission.tv

Eric Price // Community & Connection
eric@lifemission.tv

Pete Christopher // Technical Arts
pete@lifemission.tv

Matt Piro // Worship Leader
matt@lifemission.tv

Audra Napolitano // Kids on Mission
audra@lifemission.tv

Kim Roberson // Administration
kim@lifemission.tv

Rachel Jobin // Connection
rachel.jobin@gmail.com

Life Mission Church

Call or Text: 760-975-4525

PO Box 908, San Marcos, CA 92079

www.LifeMissionChurch.com

[Facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch](https://www.facebook.com/LifeMissionChurch)

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 10:1-20, 40-42**. What stuck out to you in these verses or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Re-read **Matthew 10:16**, then read **John 15:18-20**. As a church, our mission is to make disciples that make disciples both locally and globally, meaning that you have been saved by God for a purpose. That purpose, or mission, is to "Go." It's to share the Gospel with your friends, family, co-workers and whoever else you come into contact with in your daily life. Does the idea of being "sent as a sheep amongst wolves" freak you out? How does knowing we'll get rejected by someone affect the way you share Jesus with the unsaved you live life with? If fear isn't the hiccup, where's the roadblock in preaching the "good news" with others locally?

Another way that we obey Jesus' commandment to "Go" (**Matthew 10:5-6, Matthew 28:19**) is by sharing the Gospel in another place or county. One way we do this is by our trips to Mexico and Zambia. Does the idea of being "sent out globally" to other countries where the Gospel wasn't ever been heard before scare you? If so, why do you fear sharing the Gospel with others? If it's not fear, what other idol or sin is getting in the way? _____

Read **Philippians 3:7-16**. Most of **Matthew 10:1-20** is dealing with Jesus calling His disciples to "Go," and then He seems to un-romanticize discipleship. Why does Jesus un-sugar coat the call of following Him and preaching the Gospel? What's sharing the Gospel more about than our comforts and fears? _____

Read **Colossians 4:8**. Knowing we will be rejected (verse 16), how can we be "wise as serpents, but gentle as doves?" Now read **Luke 21:15**. How are we to speak? _____

If you are not currently sharing the Gospel with others, what are some practical steps that you can personally take in repentance? Read, **2 Corinthians 4:4**. Are you praying for the person you're trying to reach to see the truth of the Gospel? Next read **James 1:5**. Are you praying for wisdom? Then read **1 Peter 3:1-2**. Do you live out your faith with godly living? Read **Romans 10:9-10**. Are you in the Word, studying, preparing so that you actually know what to share faith? Be honest with where you are at.

First read **Romans 8:29-39** and **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**. Then pray both in your personal time of "abiding" and together in Community with this verse in mind. When you pray, **Preach** this verse into your heart and into your mind! Believe this truth inserting your name into these verses and personalizing them. Next, confess and **Repent** of the sin of not sharing your faith. Then, **Ask** God (**John 14:13**) to give you what you're lacking when it comes to sharing your faith. Last, end with Thanksgiving and **Yield** to His will.

For further equipping and growth....

- Memorize **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**.
- Ask someone to join you for a **Fight Club** to discuss your obstacles and hiccups in sharing your faith.
- Sign up for the **Instruments in the Redeemers Hands class**
- Sign up for the **Membership Class**



Equipping a Gospel-Centered Community in the Word of God,
To Live Out a Gospel-Centered Life Mission to the Glory of God.



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Matthew 10.1-20, 40-42 // January 25, 2015

9AM & 11AM SERVICES

Life Mission Church Meets at Light & Life Christian School
1816 Oak Hill Drive, Escondido 92027