

Matthew 10:1-5a Officers Set in the Church

Introduction: This text records the first officers being set in the church.

I. The twelve men, Verse 1a.

- A. These had already made professions of faith and had been baptized by John the Baptist, Acts 1:21-22.
- B. All twelve had already surrendered to preach.
 - 1. Matthew recorded the call of Peter and Andrew, James and John, Matthew 4.
 - 2. He also recorded his own call, Matthew 9:9.
- C. They had already served in the ministry for some time.
(They had stayed right with Jesus: now they would be sent out.)

II. The authority of the office.

- A. Luke says, "He named apostles." Luke 6:13 (See also verse 2 of text.)
- B. The basic meaning of the word, apostle, is "one sent forth."
- C. Common usage added the idea, "One sent on a mission with authority to perform the mission."
- D. Hence an apostle was one sent forth by the Lord to perform certain duties for the Lord with special authority from the Lord to perform those duties.
- E. For example, they were given authority over demon spirits to cast them out, Verse 1.
(Word "power"- authority.)
- F. They were given authority to heal the sick, Verse 1.
- G. But more important was the authority to preach, Verse 7.
 - 1. Whoever rejected their word rejected God's word.
 - 2. Whoever mistreated them persecuted the Lord.

III. The difference between their authority and of God called preachers of today.

- A. These men operated directly under the authority of Jesus.
(They did not operate under the authority of a church.)
- B. Today all authority is given to the New Testament church.
 - 1. Now only as a church calls a man to an office or ordains him, or endorses and sends him out does he have authority to be an officer.
 - 2. No preacher has any authority nor any business trying to be a free lance preacher out from under church authority.
 - 3. It was the church which elected a new apostle to fill the vacancy which Judas left.

IV. First officers of the church, I Corinthians 12 28.

- A. These were already members of the church.
- B. Now they were set as officers in the church.
- C. So far as the record shows, there was no laying on the hands nor any ceremony.
- D. Jesus just called the group of disciples together, set these twelve aside and designated them as apostles.

V. The names of the twelve, Verse 2-4.

- A. There are four Bible lists of names of the twelve. (Matthew 10, Mark 3, Luke 6, and Acts 1)
- B. The lists are not identical and this poses a problem for some.
- C. There is no real problem. The names may differ, but the people are the same.
 - 1. Some of the differences may be accounted for by different spelling of the same name.

(The English spelling of same name coming out of the Hebrew would be different than that which came out of the Greek. Example, Lebbaeus in verse 3 is “Judas the brother of James” in Luke.)

2. Some men simply had more than one name. (Example: Simon, Peter, Cephas)

D. Not one of the twelve had been an officer in the Old Testament system of worship.

1. There was not one Old Testament prophet, not one Old Testament priest, not one member of the Sanhedrin.

2. This emphasizes what Jesus had earlier said, that the New Testament church system is not a patch-up job of the Old Testament law system. (New office and new officers.)

E. I will not have time to discuss each name, but I do call attention to two:

1. Simon Peter, verse 2, is given special honor, but is given no special authority. (All the same.)

2. Judas Iscariot was outwardly the same as the others. (The difference was inwardly. He was lost. One can be a member of a New Testament church and be lost; one can be active in church work and lost; one can be a preacher and lost.)

Conclusion:

1. Have you really been saved? If not then do so now.
2. Have you been called to preach? If so have you surrendered to the call?
3. Do you need to move your membership?

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