

Problem:

The Jews largely expected a conquering King and so had a hard time really seeing Jesus. We have the opposite problem - we view Him as a non-violent hippie preaching tolerance. We have no room in our theology of Jesus as a conquering king and so we miss seeing Him as He is.

-Read Joshua 5:13-15; Revelation 19:11-16.

-is this what you think of Jesus today? why or why not?

-should we think of Him this way? why or why not?

-is this the only way we should see Him? why or why not?

Note: As you get into this message do not be discouraged if it is difficult- i chose not to make this easy and miss anything - there is work to be done but you all be blessed in the doing of it.

(Matthew 9:35-38) We are ambassadors of a compassionate King...but do not forget:

-Jesus saw a harvest of disciples who were repentant and ready to enter the kingdom but they needed to be told.

-the key point here is the compassion of Christ.

(Matthew 10:1-15) He is coming to conquer

-each section is delineated by the phrase truly i say to you. (10:15, 23, 42)

-this section is largely descriptive and relates the the specific ministry of the 12 to the nation of Israel. there are great truths about God and being a disciple but the specifics are about a national ministry as will be shown.

regarding apostles today:

'A man had to meet certain qualifications to be an apostle of Jesus Christ. He must have seen the risen Christ (1 Cor. 9:1) and fellowshiped with Him (Acts 1:21-22). He had to be chosen by the Lord (Eph. 4:11). The Apostles laid the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20) and then passed from the scene. While all believers are sent forth to represent the King (John 17:18; 20:21), no believer today can honestly claim to be an apostle; for none of us has seen the risen Christ (1 Peter 1:8).

These Apostles were given special power and authority from Christ to perform miracles. These miracles were a part of their "official credentials" (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:1-4). They healed the sick (and note that this included all kinds of diseases), cleansed the lepers, cast out demons, and even raised the dead. These four ministries paralleled the miracles that Jesus performed in Matthew 8 and 9. In a definite way, the Apostles represented the King and extended His work.' (Weirsbe - Be Loyal, 86)

-verses 5-7 remind us of the context of this mission - the nation of Israel. read Jeremiah 31:31-40 to find out why.

-who is the new covenant going to be made with?

-the church enjoys the benefits of this new covenant by being IN Christ (Ephesians 1)

-verses 13-15 mention a person who is worthy and their peace. read Genesis 18:22-33. how does this relate to a repentant person covering a whole city?

-how does this example figure into this section in Matthew?

-verse 15 is about the day of judgment. Luke 14:31-31 uses a phrase the terms of peace which is used again in Luke 19:41-45. this is a great picture of what Christ is doing and really brings in the main idea:

We are ambassadors of a conquering King offering terms of peace before He comes

(Matthew 10:16-23) He is coming quickly

-this section is largely descriptive of the future disciples sent out to witness right before the return of Christ. This first sending by Christ prefigures the future one but the text clearly is about the future. notice that this section is about the gentiles while the last one was specific to the nation of Israel. also this section is about the final return of Christ and a great persecution which the 12 did not face in this way ever.

-Read Matthew 24:9-31. this parallel passage is also and obviously speaking about an event that has not happened yet. the nation of Israel is in view.

-Read Revelation 7:1-8. this is my view on the specific context of this ministry. here is an article that may help explain a few details:

<http://www.letusreason.org/Biblexp46.htm>

-Revelation 7:9 explains their impact during the great Tribulation period.

-chapter 13:1-18 of Revelation explains the context further of this time period. also read Zechariah 12:1-13:1; 14:1-9, for more clarity of the national salvation and coming millennial kingdom of the nation of Israel. to understand what is going on and the various views of these passages here is a short article that is simple. go through it if time permits:

<http://www.xenos.org/classes/principles/cpu1w7.htm#a8>

and here is another one:

<http://www.av1611.org/jmelton/second.html>

-Matthew 10:23 reminds the disciples during this persecution (however you want to put the timing etc) that He is coming quickly to judge. this would give them hope and confidence to persevere in their witness.

(Matthew 10:24-42) He is coming to divide

-this section is largely a description of the general characteristics found in presenting Christ -namely the polarizing nature of the task. even though

there is a more general flavor here the end of the section brings us back to the immediate context of national witness and the task of the 12.

-in verse 25 Christ refers back to 9:34 when they called His work the work of Satan. people do not get push back when they preach a message of love and tolerance. if they persecuted Christ they will persecute you and I.

-Jesus says He came to cause division. read Luke 12:49-59. How does this passage reinforce the main idea of the message?

-when Jesus is claiming that people will be divided over Him we must remember that the same is true today.

-verse 42 brings us back to the response of the people to the ambassadors of Christ. specifically we see this illustrated in Matthew 25:31-46 right before Jesus puts survivors of the Tribulation in the Millennial Kingdom He divides them based on how they treated His witnesses. this is not about eternal life per se. it is about living and being rewarded with the promised kingdom. if you want to go deeper in this check out this site:

<http://endtimepilgrim.org/sheepgoat.htm>

(note: i do not necessarily agree with every facet on these sites. they were chosen for their easy access. a great book on this subject is called Things to Come by Dwight Pentecost -

http://www.amazon.com/Things-Come-Study-Biblical-Eschatology-ebook/dp/B000SELP1G/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1384129593&sr=1-1&keywords=things+to+come+by+pentecost *i cannot recommend this book enough)*

There is a lot of technical stuff in this passage but there are some general truths for us today that are simple and forceful:

- 1. We are His ambassadors- read Matt 28:19-20; Romans 10:9-15**
- 2. This is His offer -reconciliation- read 2 cor 5:16-6:2**
- 3. These are His terms - read Acts 17:22-31**

Main Idea:

We are not ambassadors of a needy king begging for relationships. We are ambassadors of a conquering King offering terms of peace before He comes.

Implication:

In Christ, we see the compassionate heart of God- but - we must not be tempted to believe for a moment that God would crush and brutalize His own spotless Son and then let anyone slide. He is coming to conquer, He is coming quickly and He is coming to polarize. We are His only plan for rescue - there is no plan b. -discuss how to specifically apply this message.