

# Go!

Week 31 ~ Notes for October 16th

*Jim Cunningham*

## Background

Subject	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
<b>The Twelve Sent Out</b>	10:5-11:1	6:7-13	9:1-6	

Let me state from the outset that when I initially read through these passages with the thought of leading out in a discussion on their contents, I immediately recognised I was out of my depth. The sensible thing to do was to head for the shallow end. But it's not clear to me where the shallow end is in these passages - Mike, Andrew, Llew and others, occasionally you may have to throw me a life-raft!

Whatever difficulties these passages will throw up, it is clear to me they are about *mission*. Mission is about looking outwards to the needs of others. Whatever the difficulties we have in spreading the gospel, it appears to be a vital component of the transformed Christian's life. Hopefully, we can have a discussion on how to approach '*mission*' today in a secularised, unchurched country.

Two points upon which we may want to reflect:

1. We've recently had some local difficulties with the actions of some of our church leaders. Of the twelve apostles, one was to doubt His resurrection. A second was to betray Him. A third was to deny Him at the most vulnerable point in His human existence. Yet He still sent them out!
2. I think Christ was a brilliant, mission strategist. Can you tease out from the passages the case to support this conclusion?

Christ's instructions to his disciples:

1. Go to the lost sheep of Israel.
2. Proclaim this message; "The Kingdom of Heaven has come near".
3. Heal the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those who have leprosy; drive out demons.
4. Freely give.
5. Rely on the hospitality of sympathisers.
6. Walk away from those who will not listen to you.

WARNING: Be prepared for persecution.

SUPPORT: You will be given what to say.

WARNING: There is likely to be a major breach in the social bond that is precious to you.

REASON: Your loyalties will have to fundamentally change.

## Discussion

1. The Kingdom of Heaven has come near.
2. Do not fear for those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
3. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
4. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life will find it.
5. The terrifying experiences portrayed in Matt 5:16-23 did not appear to happen to the apostles at that precise period in time. Can you explain its insertion here?
6. Are our Christian convictions of sufficient strength to overcome the influence of our close, tribal bonds when faced with a moral dilemma?

Where do we go with *mission* today?

A quote from the late William Barclay:

*There are two great days in a person's life, the day we are born and the day we discover why.*

Christ's mission is about 'discovering why'.