

Sovereign Grace Church

“The Twelve” outline

May 19, 2019

Matthew 10: 1-4

Children are small, but they have real power. They have the power to pick up a stick and hit their brother or sister over the head with it. Parents have power too. They have power to take that same stick and use it to apply the biblical “rod of correction.” But what about authority? Does the child have the authority to pick up that stick and use it in that manner? Does the parent have the authority to apply the “rod of correction”? Authority makes a real difference. To have power without authority is to not be in a position to lawfully use it. To have authority without power is useless. All authority must ultimately come from God....the only Self-Existent Being in all of Reality. God is good....therefore any authority from Him must be applied for Good as well!

In this passage we will consider Jesus' authority as He shares it with His twelve disciples (later apostles). We will also consider the effectiveness of Christ's power as it was brought to bear upon these men as they went out.....how they were changed over time and how that same power is now available for our use as well.

1. The Commission v. 1

- **Power vs. Authority**
- **The Authoritative Use of Power Mk 1: 27; Matt. 16:18**

2. The Commissioned vv. 2-4

3. The Miracle of Transformation

- **What was the challenge Jesus faced in re-making His disciples?
Lk 9:54; Jn 6: 5,7; Jn 1: 45-46; Jn 14:19,22; Ac 1:6; Matt 26:56; Jn 20:19**
- **What had His disciples been willing to do?
Lk 18:28; Jn 5:39**

- **How did they turn out?**
Ac 4:31; Jn 14:12
- **What was the difference?** Lk 24:49

Lesson

Questions for Conversation and Reflection

1. **Do you have power? What sort of power do you naturally have? What authority do you have to put that power to use? Do you think you may have power of which you are not aware? Can you have a power that you do not want? Can you think of any reason a person may not want to utilize power that he in fact has?**
2. **Do kids have authority? How does their authority change and evolve as they grow to maturity? How is life experienced differently by a first-born child as opposed to a last-born one? What does authority bring with it? What is the danger of power without authority?**
3. **Have you ever been the victim of someone who had power and used it for bad instead of good? Does civil government have authority from God to use power? Is this power qualified in any way? How? (see Rom. 13: 1ff) What recourse does the victim of an abuse of power have? [this question will probably not be resolved quickly and even when you think it is, it might not be!]**
4. **Would you have chosen the men Jesus chose to be His disciples? Do you think these men would have chosen to follow Him if they knew what was coming? Are there people in your life that seem in a sense “beyond redemption”? Is anyone truly beyond redemption when faced with the power and authority of Christ?**
5. **Why is sorrow for sin not the same as repentance of sin? Why is Judas' case a very sobering one?**