**Week of April 7, 2019**

**Matthew 10:1-15**

1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. 2 Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; 3 Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. 5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as ye go, preach, saying\*, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, 10 Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. 11 And into whatsoever\* city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. 12 And when ye come into a house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. 15 Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s lesson is centers around Jesus call and purpose to his chosen twelve disciples. Jesus gave instruction to His disciples to go and share the message of salvation with the Jew. The Twelve were instructed to avoid any town occupied by the Samaritans. The Samaritan were the residents of the city of Samaria. The Samaritans adopted the religion of the Jews, but their religion was mixed with other pagan practices. The Twelve were also told not to go the Gentiles. Although the gift of salvation is free to everyone, Jesus wanted the nation of Israel which is referred to as the lost sheep who were God’s original chosen people. The call to the lost sheep of the house Israel was later lifted in the Great Commission. Following the instructions, Matthew lists the Twelve and calls them apostles. Apostles, from the Greek word Apostolos, means messenger; he that is sent. Jesus gave the disciples the same authority He had, which would empower them to do miracles. The reference to “the kingdom of heaven has come near” was significant. The Jews believed the “Kingdom of heaven” referred to the Messiah’s ushering in His kingdom. In contrast, Jesus used this term to emphasize the kingdom of heaven had already begun when people accepted Him in their hearts, making a decision to follow Him. Jesus gave the disciples clear instructions on how they were to conduct themselves as they ministered to others. Finally, Jesus told the disciples to “shake the dust off their feet” if people refused to receive their message of salvation. The symbolic action of “shaking the dust from one’s feet” was visual demonstration that one was finished with trying to communicate with or minister to someone. It may not just be a home that is not “worthy” it may be an entire town.

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