

## Being God's Living Testimony

Our Gospel today in Matthew 10 is about Jesus sending the disciples out on their first mission. Have you ever thought what mission is, beyond overseas missionaries and street preachers? Jesus gives the disciples a specific task to preach that the Kingdom of heaven is near.

We talk about God's Mission, but why is the Kingdom of heaven such an important message and why is it so important to us. We need to break down what the Kingdom of heaven means. Being God's Church, which is what we are, is all about the Kingdom. God's Mission is for the restoration of all creation and the primary part of that is the restoration of His communion with us.

We get it all backwards, we think we have to be the mission for God and through this, somehow, we are proving to God that we are worthy of His grace and mercy. Cannibals worshipped their own Gods with the same kind of dedication. God has always been a difference and humanity has always tried to reverse it. God reaches out to us, says all we need to do is follow Him and He will make us a blessing to the whole world. We sadly say, "No God, I think you have it wrong, let me do the work, I'll try to be good, I'll try to be religious, I'll try to tell others about God and that way you can see that I am being your servant." God is incredibly patient with us. He even works through our misconceptions, because there is the sincerity to Him; even though the backward way to serve him can be a chore.

Some how we struggle with the fact that God actually wants to do a missionary work within our own souls. Revealing to us His love, grace, compassion for us. There is a reason why God wants it this way. When He is real within us, we then know that realness and our testimony to others is then absolutely genuine. For example, a man that only knows about farming from a textbook is very different from a man who is an actual farmer. When an actual farmer talks about farming, even though we may not know anything about farming, we know that this man truly knows his stuff. So it is with our faith, and people that do not know Christianity at all, know, through meeting us, that we have a God thing about us.

The disciples met and lived with Jesus and were witnesses of his marvellous works. Many men knew the scriptures and the teachings of the prophets, but nothing seemed to resonate with the people. That is, until Jesus became the walking, living reality of the fulfilment of all those scriptures. Faced with this, the disciples got, at first hand, an understanding of God's outreach to humanity. They got what the Kingdom of Heaven was about because the King of Heaven walked among them. Their testimony, about the Kingdom of Heaven being near, was not a just a message confirming scripture; it resonated with reality and truth. Those who heard and believed were delivered and healed and were amazingly blessed.

Who told us we could not be like this? Who said to us that only Priests and special people did this? Who made a rule that bringing God's blessing to the lost was not the work of all God's church? God waits for us to ask him to do His work in us and to make His presence real within our souls. Then, like Jesus to the disciples, He gives us permission to be His living testimony.