

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Here's a **Full Breakdown** of the event where **Jesus sends out the Twelve** for ministry:

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📖 Matthew 10:1–15 | ❤️ Mark 6:6b–13 | ❤️ Luke 9:1–6

Element	📖 Matthew 10:1–15	❤️ Mark 6:6b–13	❤️ Luke 9:1–6
Setting	Transition from miracles to mission	Continuation after rejection in Nazareth	After healing Jairus's daughter and feeding events
Recipients	The Twelve Disciples	The Twelve	The Twelve
Power Given	Authority over unclean spirits and diseases	Authority over unclean spirits	Power and authority over all demons and diseases
Instructions to Preach	"The kingdom of heaven is at hand"	They preached that people should repent	Proclaim the kingdom of God
Healing/Deliverance	Heal the sick, raise dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons	Cast out demons, heal the sick	Heal the sick
What to Take	No gold, silver, bag, extra tunic, sandals, staff	Staff only; no bread, bag, or money	Nothing—no staff, bag, bread, money, or extra tunic
Where to Stay	Stay with one worthy person until you leave town	Stay in one house per town	Stay in one house
Rejection Protocol	Shake off dust from feet as testimony	Shake off dust from feet	Shake off dust from feet
Result	(Not mentioned here)	Drove out demons, healed many	Departed, went through villages preaching and healing
Special Notes	Full discourse on mission strategy (MT 10)	Shorter summary	Very concise version

🗺️ Historical and Narrative Context

- This event marks a **turning point** in Jesus' ministry. Up to now, He had been doing the work while the disciples watched. Now, they are sent to **imitate His mission**.
- It occurs **after increasing opposition** from religious leaders and the **rejection in Jesus' hometown**.
- This is a **training mission** before the final commission in Matthew 28. Jesus is preparing them for future ministry.

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Theological Themes

1. Delegated Authority

- Jesus gives His authority to His disciples. This affirms His divine status (only God can give power over demons and diseases).
- The disciples aren't just helpers—they're **representatives**, or *shaliach* (שליח) in Hebrew, meaning they carry the sender's authority.

2. Kingdom of Heaven/God

- The central message they preach is the **arrival of God's reign**.
- This connects to Old Testament prophetic themes (Isaiah 52:7 – “Your God reigns!”).

3. Urgency and Simplicity

- Their lack of provision (no bag, money, etc.) teaches:
 - **Dependence on God**
 - **Urgency** – the time is short
 - **Trust in hospitality** – a test of the people's reception of the message

4. Hospitality as a Spiritual Litmus Test

- If a house receives them, peace rests on it.
- If not, the **dust-shaking** (symbol of judgment) shows rejection of God, not just the messenger.

Key Greek Terms

Greek Term	Word	Meaning / Significance
ἐξουσία (<i>exousia</i>)	"Authority" (MT 10:1, LK 9:1)	Power granted from a higher authority
ἐκήρυσσον (<i>kērussō</i>)	"Proclaimed/preached" (MK 6:12)	To herald like a royal announcement
μετάνοια (<i>metanoia</i>)	"Repentance" (MK 6:12)	A radical change of mind and life direction
βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ	"Kingdom of God" (LK 9:2)	God's reign breaking into the world

Messianic Implications

- Jesus' ability to give His disciples **miraculous authority** links to **Moses and the 70 elders (Numbers 11:16-17)**.
- Their message fulfills **Isaiah's prophecy** that the **good news would be preached to the poor** (Isaiah 61:1).
- The act of shaking dust off one's feet echoes **Ezekiel 33:4–6** where the watchman warns the people—if they do not respond, their blood is on their own hands.

Connection to the Broader Gospel Narrative

- This is the first time Jesus **shares His ministry**.
- Later (Luke 10), He sends out **72**, and ultimately commissions all His followers in the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18–20).
- Each step builds toward an **expanding mission** from Israel to the nations.