

# Staying On Mission

## Matthew 10

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**Big-Picture Truth:** Disciples who listen to Jesus' instructions stay on mission.

### **Instruction #1: PUT JESUS FIRST . . . before all lesser joys.**

*Don't think it's my job to bring peace – I came to bring a sword! <sup>35</sup>I came to divide a man from his father, a daughter from her mother, and a daughter-in-law from her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>Yes, you'll find your enemies inside your own front door. <sup>37</sup>If you love your father or mother more than me, you won't deserve me. If you love your son or daughter more than me, you won't deserve me. <sup>38</sup>Anyone who doesn't pick up their cross and follow after me doesn't deserve me. <sup>39</sup>If you find your life you'll lose it, and if you lose your life because of me you'll find it.*  
Matthew 10:34-39 (N.T. Wright)

“Earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy [my longing for God], but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo . . . I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country . . . I must make it the main object of life to press on to that other country and help others do the same.”  
From *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

**Application Tip:** If you sense that lesser joys are coming between you and Jesus, find a discipleship partner for the coming year and learn how to become more and more aware of Jesus in your daily life.

### **Instruction #2: LISTEN TO JESUS . . . for your specific assignment.**

*Jesus sent the Twelve off with these instructions. 'Don't go into Gentile territory', he said, 'and don't go into a Samaritan town. <sup>6</sup>Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'*  
Matthew 10:5-6 (N.T. Wright)

**Application Tip:** Ask Jesus to assign you a specific place or a specific person.

**Instruction #3: DO GOOD . . . and so back up your words with action.**

*As you go, declare publicly that the kingdom of heaven is arriving. <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. The message was free when you got it; make sure it's free when you give it. Matthew 10:7-8 (N.T. Wright)*

**Instruction #4: KNOCK ON DOORS . . . don't bash them down.**

*When you go into a town or village, make careful enquiry for someone who is good and trustworthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup>When you go into the house, give a solemn greeting. <sup>13</sup>If the house is trustworthy, let your blessing of peace rest upon it, but if not, let it return to you. <sup>14</sup>If anyone won't welcome you or listen to your message, go out of the house or the town and shake the dust off your feet. Matthew 10:11-14 (N.T. Wright)*

**Instruction #5: KNOW YOUR WORTH . . . and do not be afraid.**

*The disciple isn't greater than the teacher; the slave isn't greater than the master. <sup>25</sup>It's quite enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave to be like the master. If they called the master of the house 'Beelzebul', think what they're going to call his family! <sup>26</sup>Don't be afraid of them. Nothing is hidden, you see, that won't come to light; nothing is secret that won't be made known. <sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ears, announce from the roofs of the houses. <sup>28</sup>Don't be afraid of people who can kill the body, but can't kill the soul. The one you should be afraid of is the one who can destroy both body and soul in Gehenna. <sup>29</sup>How much would you get for a couple of sparrows? A penny if you're lucky? And not one of them falls to the ground without your father knowing about it. <sup>30</sup>When it comes to you – why, every hair on your head is counted. <sup>31</sup>So don't be afraid! You're worth much more than a great many sparrows. Matthew 10:24-31 (N.T. Wright)*

**Application Tip:** Meditate on Matthew 10:9-14. Get alone with God and be silent for a moment. Invite Him to be with you. Then read this passage aloud once or twice. As you read, be aware of any word or phrase that God may be directing you to. Be silent and sit with that word or phrase. Read the passage again and, as you sit with God, ask yourself two questions: What in my life needs this right now? To what is God inviting me through this word or phrase?