

# What Jesus Said

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## 12. Matthew 10:1-15 *Jesus gives his Disciples the Power*

This story is found at the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew. It is the first fifteen verses and we write it like this: **Matthew 10:1-15**. *BibleHomework* uses this format throughout its website.

### The Scripture:

**Matthew 10:1** -Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

**10:2** These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

**10:3** - Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;

**10:4** - Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

**10:5** - These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: **“Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans.**

**10:6** - **Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.**

**10:7** - **As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’**

**10:8** - **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.**

**10:9** - **“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts**

**10:10** - **no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.**

**10:11** - **Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave.**

**10:12** - **As you enter the home, give it your greeting.**

**10:13** - **If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.**

**10:14 - If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.**

**10:15 - Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment than for that town.**

## The Explanation:

- *A note: The term leprosy – can mean any thing from what we call Leprosy today to other skin conditions existing at the time.*

At the end of the last Chapter we saw that Jesus knew he had to enable the Disciples to help him in His Ministry of healing the sick, seeing to the poor and needy and preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. He gave the Disciples power to heal so that His Ministry would continue faster and reach more people. He gave specific instructions about how to care, how to go into a village and that they were to give their Ministry freely. Jesus' earthly father, Jacob could very well have used the expression **"for the worker is worth his keep"** to him as a child as he taught him carpentry.

## Places and People Mentioned:

**Sodom & Gomorrah** These cities were mentioned in the first book of the Old testament – Genesis, throughout the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament as well as the Qur'an and other sources. According to the Torah, the Kingdoms of Sodom and Gomorrah were allied with the cities of Admah, Zeboim and Bela. These five cities, also known collectively as the "Cities of the Plain", and were sited on the River Jordan's plain in the southern region of the land of Canaan. They were destroyed by God as they were beyond redemption.

## Questions:

1. Who are the lost sheep of Israel? Why are they called this?

2. Why do you think Jesus asked the Disciples to go to Jewish villages first?
3. What does he mean when he says: **'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'**
4. What does Jesus mean when talking about greetings he says **"shake the dust off your feet."**  
If they are not welcoming?
5. What is the greeting that the Disciples must give when entering a house?