

Matthew 10 - "Vive La Revolution!" ~ 27/02/10

Jesus is giving His troops the classic "General Patton" rousing speech, but this is not the start of war (that's in [Genesis 3!](#)), but this is a REVOLUTION.

The Revolution

Jesus came and started a revolution that obtained freedom for millions of souls, and still does.

Matthew wants us to see and respond to Christ's call to revolution. He uses the word Kingdom (*basileia*) [56](#) times in his book, but this is not simply rebellion against the world; it is renouncing the rebellion that already exists within.

Jesus has only 14 months left, over 95% through His time here as a man. Time is precious. He now sends out the 12 with specific instruction, with brutal honesty, but also with encouragement. He heads out to do ministry Himself ([11.1](#)), so He's not just staying at home.

This is the 1st time they've done this on their own - how did they feel?

Thus, Jesus gives them this rousing speech. By telling them it's a bed of roses? He gives them a Reality-check of what they'll face in the physical realm (*apathy, rejection, opposition, persecution, division*) and the reality of what's occurring in the spiritual realm: Father's in charge and will care for you...

The Reality-Check

APATHY & REJECTION ([v14-15](#)):

How often do you want to share the Good News and no one's interested? Secularism pervades our society's thinking. We can't engineer situations. But we are called to share the Gospel. Knowing when to stay and when to move on is fundamental (Spirit-led lifestyle). Look for the man of peace. Jesus's answer = God will deal/future judgement. ([14-15](#))

OPPOSITION & PERSECUTION ([v16-23](#)):

Do we really know persecution in this country? REALLY? It's building. In that arena, we can trust in Jesus's answer = the Spirit will give you the words to say ([19-20](#)); acknowledge God, as He'll acknowledge you ([32](#))

DIVISION ([v34-39](#)):

The Gospel is offensive ([2 Cor 2.16](#)). "*Don't think that I come to bring peace*". Isn't He the Prince of Peace? Is He contradicting Himself?

The angels declared at His birth, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth...*" - *what?* - "*peace among those with whom He is pleased.*" Only genuine repentance & faith in Jesus brings us true peace. The gospel is the announcement of SHALOM - but, naturally, people retaliate in own sin/pride/selfishness/self-worth, which brings division. The division is not God's vindictiveness, but is a result of humanity's rebellious nature.

The Reassurance

Even the hairs on your head are numbered. And not only does he know how many we have, Jesus also said (when foretelling wars and persecution that for His loved ones "*not a hair on your head will perish*" ([Lk 21.18](#)), meaning NO SPIRITUAL HARM. Christians still get martyred, or lose jobs, or lose family contact - [v26](#) = DO NOT BE AFRAID (Do not fear is the most commonly recorded command in the Bible).

[v24-25](#) = "*The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters.*" = True greatness, true life of kingdom power = comes from being LIKE Jesus! "Christians" = "little Christs" ([1 Chron.16.22](#) & [Ps 105.15](#) = "*my little Messiahs/Christs*".) Originally a derogatory nickname ([Acts 11](#)), but we have it embraced as a true embodiment of who we are. Little Christs.

The revolution continues: Christianity is not dying - Africa/Asia/Latin America. Have confidence to press

on.

Jesus = not comforting prayers, but commanded. But that's Jesus, tho, right? Well, disciples did same. When we see the authority we've already been given, the faith comes naturally = v1-15 ~ "AUTHORITY"; over "impure spirits" and "heal EVERY disease and sickness" ~ LITTLE CHRISTS.

A prayer for us: **Ephesians 1.18-19** = that we might know our future hope (*Matt 10 = acknowledged before our Father*), the church's intrinsic riches (*Matt 10 = valued more than the sparrows, knows the hairs on our heads*), and our power in Christ (*Matt 10 = authority in Jesus' name*)

Cell Q's:

1. Do you feel encouragement or trepidation about how things are changing in this country? Don't just give the "right"/"holy" answer(!) - please be honest!
2. What did Jesus mean about being "shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves"?
 - How can we put that into practice?
3. Discuss more about the "Man of peace" principle, sharing testimony where possible.
 - Pray for men & women of peace in your lives.