

# “A Travel Itinerary for Disciples”

Matthew 10:5–42

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(Judgment Sunday)

# I. Packing According to the Itinerary

I once backpacked from Munich, Germany to Vitja, Hungary. For two weeks, I traveled with only what I could carry on my back. Packing required acute attention to every item.

To pack wisely (not too much, not too little), we must consider our travel itinerary.

- Duration: a night or a fortnight?
- Means of travel: flying or hiking?
- Weather: jacket or shorts?
- Activities: sandals or heels?
- Accommodations: hotel or tent?

**In Matthew 10, Jesus gives His second sermon: a travel itinerary for mission.**

## II. What to Pack For

Jesus sends disciples on mission. After *becoming* disciples (Matt 5–7), we are to *make* disciples. **When going for mission, we should:**

### **1. Pack Light for Travel (vv. 5–15)**

- a. *Not there, but here* (vv. 5–6). The message was for the Jew first for two reasons:
  - i. To fulfill God's promises to them.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Lawrence R. Farley, *The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church*, (Chesterton: Ancient Faith Publishing, 2008), chap. 5. Kindle.

- ii. To establish leaders in the church with knowledge of Scripture.
- b. *Herolding and Healing* (vv. 7–8). The message includes Matt 5–7.
 

*John Chrysostom*. If you change from inhumanity to almsgiving, you have stretched forth the hand that was withered. If you withdraw from the theaters and go to the church, you have cured the lame foot. If you draw back your eyes from a harlot, and from beauty not your own, you have opened them when they were blind. If instead of satanical songs, you have learned spiritual psalms, being dumb, you have spoken. These are the greatest miracles, these the wonderful signs.<sup>2</sup>
- c. *Travel Light* (vv. 9–10). Minimal possessions increase a missional presence.
- d. *Peace* (vv. 11–13). To be light in possessions is to be heavy with peace. “Shalom” was also a name for God and thus suggested more of a benediction than a greeting, for it was also a name for God.<sup>3</sup>
- e. *No Dust!* (vv. 14–15). Rejection is not personal. As Taylor Swift says, “Haters gonna hate... shake it off!”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Frederick Dale Bruner, *Matthew: A Commentary. Volume 1: The Christbook*, revised and expanded edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004), 462. Kindle. Though we must be careful we don’t eliminate the possibility that God heals physically through His people. One wonders if He heals through *individual* where His church is not established and through the *church* when it is. It is also that the further we are from Christ, the less of His power we possess. Holiness and purity may provide power.

<sup>3</sup> Bruner, 462, suggests the greeting entailed Jesus resurrection greeting: “Peace be with you” (John 20:19).

<sup>4</sup> Taylor Swift, “Shake It Off,” 1989, 2004.

## 2. Pack Ready for Trouble (vv. 16–23)<sup>5</sup>

- a. *Sent by Jesus* (v. 16). “I” is emphatic in Greek: “I *myself* am sending you.”
- b. *Sheep* (v. 16). We are not conquerors but servants. “Serpents” = smart sheep.
- c. *Be Wise, Be Innocent, Beware* (vv. 16, 17). The 8th Beatitude promises persecution. We cannot take it personally: it is not *us*, but *Christ* they hate.
- d. *Flee!* (v. 23). Jesus actually tells us to know when it’s time to give up because there is a big harvest. When someone isn’t receptive, move on.<sup>6</sup>

## 3. Pack Assured with Trust (vv. 24–42)

- a. *Like Master, Like Disciple* (vv. 24–25). If they did this to Jesus, they will do it to any who are like Him. You’ve been warned beforehand!
- b. *Teach Everything* (vv. 26, 27). We mustn’t shy from the whole counsel of Scripture (cf. Matt 28:20).
- c. *Fear God or Fear Everything!* (vv. 28–33). Our Father watches over us (cf. Ps 121).

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<sup>5</sup> Verses 16–42 are believed to be a compilation of Jesus’ various teachings on persecution. See Farley, chap. 5. Matthew seeks catechism, not chronology. For this reason, we should see the entirety of this second sermon as given to the church in addition to the twelve disciples.

<sup>6</sup> “Before the Son of Man come,” has raised much speculation. Bruner’s suggestion that this refers to one of four events (RSVP) seems unconvincing: the resurrection, the Spirit’s coming, God’s visitation in AD 70, or the *parousia* (second coming of Christ). I prefer Farley’s interpretation that Jesus is referring to His ascension. See Farley, chap. 5.

- d. *Discipleship Is Total Devotion* (vv. 34–39). Just as *hatred* from one’s family should not prevent our mission, neither should their *love*.<sup>7</sup> To choose family over Christ is to refuse His cross.<sup>8</sup>
- e. *Receiving Christians is Receiving Christ and the Father* (vv. 40–42). Faithful Christian *worship of Christ* the Word is faithful Christian *witness of Christ* to the world.<sup>9</sup>

### III. The Church Is a Hostel

A hostel is an inexpensive overnight lodging for travelers. It is sparse and therefore not intended to provide the amenities of a prolonged stay.

**The church is a hostel—it provides nourishment for mission.** The Catholic term “Mass” came from the Latin word for “dismissal,” which was the blessing and sending out of the people at the end of the service.<sup>10</sup> We practice this in the following ways:

- *Prayer of St. Francis*: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...,”
- *Aaronic Benediction* (Num 6:24–26): “The Lord bless thee and keep thee...”
- At other times, we use this benediction:

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<sup>7</sup> Based on Matthew Henry, quoted in Bruner, 440.

<sup>8</sup> Farley, chap. 5.

<sup>9</sup> See Bruner, 494–496. “People who welcome Christian people, that is, who join Christian people to their worship and fellowship around the preached and sacramental Word [i.e., Communion] are people who receive Christ and the Father” (495).

<sup>10</sup> We practice this in St. Francis’ prayer, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...,” and in the Aaronic benediction from Numbers 6:24–26, “The Lord bless thee and keep thee...”

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

**We go to church to be dismissed!**<sup>11</sup>

- We go to church to be commissioned out of church.
- We go as worshipers to be sent as witnesses.

Are you packed and ready to go on mission with Jesus? *Tomorrow?*

Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us; for You are good and  
You love mankind. Amen.

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<sup>11</sup> “The Concluding Rite,” Liturgy Office, 2005,  
<https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/AYWL/AYWLConcluding.pdf>.