

Informed Decision

In Matthew 4, Jesus called His first disciples. In chapters 5–7, He taught them through the Sermon on the Mount, explaining the values of God’s Kingdom. In chapters 8–9, He demonstrated His authority through many miracles. Then, in chapter 10, Jesus sent out the twelve disciples and prepared them for the mission ahead.

Jesus did not hide the challenges they would face. He warned them that they would experience opposition, persecution, arrest, and even death. Just as He had been misunderstood and falsely accused, His followers could expect similar treatment. Jesus reminded them that “the student is not above the teacher,” teaching them that disciples should not be surprised when hardship comes because of their faith.

Unlike many leaders who might try to persuade people at any cost, Jesus was honest about the demands of discipleship. The stories of the rich young ruler (Luke 18) and the disciples who turned away in John 6 show that Jesus allowed people to make their own decisions about following Him. He wanted commitment based on understanding rather than emotion.

After warning His disciples of difficulties, Jesus gave them two reasons not to be afraid. First, He assured them that the truth would ultimately be revealed. Though opposition and false accusations might arise, God’s truth would prevail. Jesus, who is “the way, the truth, and the life,” would be vindicated, and His message would be proclaimed openly.

Second, Jesus reminded them that God is sovereign and deeply cares for His people. Using the example of sparrows, He taught that if God notices even the smallest details of creation, He certainly watches over His followers. Their lives and eternal future are secure in His hands.

These promises encouraged the disciples as they carried the gospel into a hostile world. They knew that God cared for them, that the truth would triumph, and that their eternal destiny was secure in Christ.

The same encouragement applies to us today. We may face misunderstanding or challenges because of our faith, but Jesus has overcome the world. As followers of Christ, we can trust that God is in control, that the truth has set us free, and that through Christ we are “more than conquerors.” This is our hope, our destiny, and our encouragement to remain faithful.