

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 10

Continuing on with the Lord's instructions to the disciples before sending them out on their first missionary tour –

PODs in review - -

POD: God has things to teach you that you can only learn by doing (Matt 10:9-10 cf. Matt 6:25-30).

- The Lord had already taught them the doctrine that their Heavenly Father would provide for them because they were more valuable to Him than the birds of the air.
- By directing them not to acquire any supplies for the trip, the disciples would have to step out in faith and apply the doctrine (**Matt 10:9**).

As they were going where the Lord wanted them to go and doing what He wanted them to do, they would see first hand how their needs would be provided.

The believer, who steps out in faith, has the privilege of seeing how magnificently the Lord will provide for [all] his needs.

From **Matt 10:11-15** we noted a few more PODs on personal evangelism:

POD: Rejection of the believer & his message is tantamount to rejection of Jesus Christ and His doctrine.

POD: When the message is rejected it is time to depart in grace.

POD: The Lord does not want you to argue with people about Him.

POD: Greater opportunity warrants greater accountability (Matt 10:16).

From **Matt 10:16-39** we noted that some of the Lord's instructions would apply after He ascended to the right hand of the Father all the way to His second coming at the end of the Tribulation.

Matt 10:17 indicated that they would suffer at the hands of self righteous religious people.

This is why He tells them to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

- Avoid danger when possible.
- Always have the purest intentions.

Matt 10:18 showed us that they would serve as witnesses to those they were brought before.

Matt 10:19 - They didn't need to be concerned about what they should say, because the Holy Spirit would give them the words.

- Vs. 19 is future because the Holy Spirit had not begun His indwelling ministry at the time the Lord gave these instructions.

From **Matt 10:24-25** we observed that they were not to expect a better lot than their Savior.

- They did not need to worry about that because everything would be exposed by the Lord.

Matt 10:27-31 "What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear in ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

POD: The word of God should be communicated with authority in public (from the pulpit or lectern).

²⁸ "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul [**ψυχή** – **PSUCHE** - *soul life*]; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Man can take your physical life but he cannot destroy your soul life.

Three types of life:

1 - Physical life – our physical body

2 - Soul life – God gives soul life at physical birth.

3 - Spiritual life – regeneration or spiritual life that we receive at faith alone in Christ alone

God is the only person who can destroy soul life.

- In the face of persecution, the disciples were not to fear men, but to fear God.
- If they maintained a healthy fear of God [**φοβέω** – **PHOBEO** – *respect or reverence*], they would be an effective witness.

POD: Respect for what God thinks and can do, as opposed to people, produces confidence to effectively witness - - to do whatever it is God wants you to do.

There is never cause to worry about a thing!

²⁹ "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Do not worry about what befalls you in doing your Heavenly Father's will.

God knows about it.

God has made provision for it.

³⁰ "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows."

God knows more about us than we will ever know about ourselves.

Therefore you need to trust in His plan for your life.

We . . . **are more valuable than many sparrows.**

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.