

25th June 2023

Matthew 10. 24 - 39

1. The Galilean Ministry

The “Galilean Ministry” is the first of two stages of the ministry of Jesus, identified in St. Mark 1.14 – 10.1, and in St. Matthew 4.12-19.1.

(See last week’s notes.) Our study passages for this June/July are all drawn from this Galilean, northern, period of the ministry of Jesus.

2. St. Matthew

In his account of the Galilean ministry, St. Matthew introduces four discourses by Jesus:

- Chs. 5 – 7 (The Sermon on the Mount)
- Ch. 10, 5 – 42
- Ch. 13, 2 – 52
- Ch. 18, 1 – 35

All of these end with the formula “and it came to pass when Jesus had ended/made an end/finished” (7.28; 11.1; 13.53; 19.1).

3. Jesus

Revise what Jesus has said in Matthew 10. 7 – 8. Consider also what he has said in 10. 16 – 18.

St. Athanasius, a fourth century A.D. bishop of Alexandria, said that Jesus was perfect man and perfect God and that his healing powers were a demonstration of his perfection.

How do these two passages outline the ministry and experience of Jesus himself?
Compare John 1.11.

How does Jesus reinforce the morale of his disciples as he sends them out on their mission?

What frank assessment does Jesus make of the reception the disciples are likely to encounter? (vv. 34 - 39)

Compare this language with John 15. 17 – 21; Matthew 5.44; Exodus 12.20.

How do we explain the paradox involved?



Background

The four discourses of Jesus (see 2, above) which St. Matthew introduces into St. Mark’s outline, enlarge St. Mark’s somewhat sparse narrative with extended and colourful teaching.

To understand St. Matthew 10.25, look back at 9. 32 – 34.

Gehenna (v. 28) was a valley with evil associations, lying outside one of the gates of Jerusalem. The word is used metaphorically in the New Testament for a final place of punishment.

(R.H. Charles)

“Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?

He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries!

Yet they at these

Themselves displease

And ‘gainst him rise.”

(Samuel Crossman)