



**Our World Needs You: To Execute the Plan**  
**Message Notes, August 26, 2018**  
Matthew 10

Drawing upon the analogy of a sports team, we explore today how God calls us to execute His plan in the world as *an effective team*.

Matthew 10 is a glimpse into “the locker room” as Jesus calls his 12 disciples together to share with them “the game plan” for taking his message into the world.

- He reminds them of their equipping, their resources, the *opponent* tactics they can expect, and then he sends them *into the game*.
- This *huddle inspiration* is not just for them; it is for us as well.
  - The “game plan” has not changed and we are now a part of the team.

**Key Elements of an Effective Team:**

**1. Resources** (they/we are not sent out without resources to draw upon)

- His Authority: (vs.1) – over evil, over sickness, to speak His truth into our world (vs. 40)
- His Spirit and power (vs. 8, 14:16-17, Acts 1:8, John 14:11-12)
- Each other: Leading to the next element...

**2. Team work**

- Matthew proceeds (in 10:2-4) to name each of the disciples. We could see this as a mere list, but it embodies their sense of relationship, community, and “team-like” bond.
  - They knew each other by name, several were family-related, they knew and valued each other.
- Matthew switches his reference of the 12 from “disciples” (learners) to “apostles” (ones sent).
  - Discipleship must move us beyond learning to **going**, proclaiming, serving, and loving.
- He sent them out in pairs, as partners (in Luke 10’s account of “sending”)

**3. A defined mission field**

- (verses 5-6) Go to the “lost sheep of Israel; not to the Gentiles.”
  - Start with my own (your own) people first. Why?
    - God’s plan was always to start with His chosen people (Hebrews) to “bless all nations of the earth.”
    - There is a practical dimension here – this was a new challenge; it helped them *grow into it* to begin with the familiar (their own people) -- akin to a sports team running *scrimmages* among themselves or playing practice pre-season games before the real games begin.

#### 4. A clear objective

- (vs. 7) “as you go, proclaim this message: ‘the kingdom of God is at hand.’”
  - Whatever activity/ministry we are about, somehow within this, we need to be proclaiming “the kingdom is near.” People **do** need tangible ministry, but even more so, they need the life-giving presence and redemption of Jesus.
- What do we mean by “the kingdom”?
  - God’s presence and reign, His love and redemption, His holiness and character.

#### 5. High expectations

- (vs 8) Jesus called them to some powerful things. They went out (perhaps with *some* fear and trembling) with faith that, by Jesus’ authority, they could do what he said”
  - healings, resurrections, deliverance, wholeness.

Pam Bone gave inspiring report of all the ways we “executed the plan” this summer through our many intentional outreach efforts:

- Fruit in statistics:
  - 29 focused ministry events
  - 225 people served
  - 35 received personal prayer ministry
  - 459 bottles of water given to people
  - 450 hand-written invitations to our church or VBS were distributed (to individuals!)
  - 800 people were touched by “the kingdom that is near”
- Fruit measured more in **obedience** than outcomes.
- Many volunteered their time and reported how meaningful it was to serve.
- Several committed to doing MORE, even leading *additional* events.
- Many expressed how meaningful it was to connect with other believers. Meaningful community arising from serving together.

Derrick brought us back to **vs. 8** - - following the litany of powerful things the 12 would do, Jesus says:

**“Freely you have received; freely give!”**

- This spirit of gratitude and generosity is the fuel for “executing the plan.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 reminds us that we can DO all kinds of spectacular, good things, “but if we have not love, it profits nothing.”
- We don’t have to come up with the plan. God has already fashioned it!
- We simply need to engage (by His Spirit) and *execute the plan* with faith and faithfulness.