

## Dr. Craig Keener, Matthew, Session 11

### Matthew 10-11

### Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

#### 1. Abstract of Keener, Matthew, Session 11, Matthew 10-11, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Craig Keener's lecture** analyzes Matthew chapters 10 and 11, focusing on Jesus' commissioning of the twelve apostles. **The lecture explores the apostles' mission**, including their instructions, expected hardships, and the significance of their actions as signs of God's kingdom. **Keener discusses the apostles' simple lifestyle**, contrasting it with later prosperity teachings, and emphasizes their reliance on God's provision. **He also examines John the Baptist's doubts** regarding Jesus' ministry and the differing responses to Jesus' message, highlighting the importance of faith and trust in God's plan. Finally, the lecture **interprets the significance of miracles** as a foretaste of God's kingdom, and contrasts them with the ultimate demonstration of God's love through the cross.

**2. 37 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Matthews, Session 11 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Gospels – Acts → Matthew).**



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### 3. Briefing Document

#### Briefing Document: Matthew 10-11 Lecture by Dr. Craig Keener

##### Main Themes:

- **Mission and Discipleship:** Jesus commissions the twelve apostles, symbolizing the restoration of Israel, and instructs them on their mission of proclaiming the kingdom, healing, and casting out demons. This mission serves as a model for contemporary Christians, emphasizing reliance on God, simple living, and perseverance despite persecution.
- **Signs of the Kingdom:** Jesus' miracles are presented not as isolated events but as powerful signs of the approaching kingdom of God, offering a glimpse of the future restoration of all creation. These signs are meant to bolster faith and demonstrate God's power and compassion.
- **Jesus as a Stumbling Block:** Jesus challenges societal expectations, both in his actions and his message, leading some to reject him. He confronts the doubts of John the Baptist, emphasizing that the kingdom prioritizes the broken and marginalized.
- **Devotion and Trust in God:** Jesus demands unwavering loyalty and emphasizes trust in God's sovereignty, even amidst persecution and suffering. He calls his followers to prioritize him above family, possessions, and even life itself, promising ultimate vindication and rest.

##### Most Important Ideas/Facts:

1. **The Commissioning of the Twelve:** Jesus sends out twelve apostles, likely symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel and representing a renewal movement. He grants them authority to preach the kingdom, heal, and cast out demons.

*"So, in the same way, Jesus may choose twelve disciples as a way of symbolizing or representing his mission to Israel."*

1. **Living Simply and Trusting God:** The disciples are instructed to travel light, relying on God's provision through hospitality and trusting in His faithfulness. This echoes the lifestyle of Old Testament prophets and provides a challenging model for modern missions.

*"The disciples had to travel light because they trusted God to supply their needs, chapter 10 verses 10 and 11." "If we are involved in what God has called us to do, God can supply our needs in doing that."*

1. **Persecution and Empowerment:** Jesus warns his disciples of inevitable persecution, comparing them to "sheep among wolves." He assures them of God's empowerment to speak boldly despite opposition and encourages them to view suffering as a participation in his mission.

*"Jesus depicts his followers as sheep among wolves, as we share the gospel."*

1. **John the Baptist's Doubts:** John, imprisoned and facing death, questions Jesus' identity in light of the seeming absence of judgment. Jesus responds by highlighting his miraculous works as signs of the kingdom, emphasizing that the kingdom comes first to the broken and marginalized.

*"The kingdom was first for the broken. Jesus came first among the broken and ministered among the marginalized."*

1. **Jesus' Miracles as Foretastes of the Kingdom:** Jesus' miracles are not random acts but deliberate signs pointing to the future kingdom, where all creation will be restored. They offer a glimpse of God's power and compassion, encouraging believers and reminding them of the ultimate hope of eternal life.

*"Jesus' signs, Jesus' miracles are not just random acts, but they're a foretaste of the kingdom of God."*

1. **Unrepentant Cities and the Need for Childlike Faith:** Jesus laments over the unrepentant cities that rejected his message despite witnessing his miracles. He criticizes their inconsistent responses and highlights the need for childlike humility and dependence on God to receive the truth of the kingdom.

*"Jesus compares the hearers in the culture to spoiled children in verses 16 through 19."*

1. **Jesus as Divine Wisdom and the Sole Mediator:** Jesus declares that the mysteries of the kingdom are revealed to those who approach him with humility and childlike faith. He emphasizes his unique position as the only mediator between humanity and God, offering true rest and a yoke that is easy and light.

*"Jesus says these things have been hidden from the wise, but revealed to infants." "Jesus here is being portrayed as divine. And Jesus says, come to me and I'll give you rest."*

**Quotes from the Source:**

- "So, in the same way, Jesus may choose twelve disciples as a way of symbolizing or representing his mission to Israel."
- "The disciples had to travel light because they trusted God to supply their needs, chapter 10 verses 10 and 11."
- "Jesus depicts his followers as sheep among wolves, as we share the gospel."
- "The kingdom was first for the broken. Jesus came first among the broken and ministered among the marginalized."
- "Jesus' signs, Jesus' miracles are not just random acts, but they're a foretaste of the kingdom of God."
- "Jesus compares the hearers in the culture to spoiled children in verses 16 through 19."
- "Jesus says these things have been hidden from the wise, but revealed to infants."
- "Jesus here is being portrayed as divine. And Jesus says, come to me and I'll give you rest."

**Overall Takeaway:**

Dr. Keener's lecture emphasizes the challenging yet rewarding call to follow Jesus. This involves embracing a life of mission and service, relying on God's provision, and remaining faithful even amidst suffering. Jesus' miracles serve as powerful reminders of the approaching kingdom and the hope of future restoration, while his demand for complete devotion challenges us to prioritize him above all else.

## 4. Matthew Study Guide: Session 11, Matthew 10-11

### Matthew 10-11 Study Guide

#### Key Terms Glossary

- **Apostle:** (from Greek *apostolos* meaning "sent one") A commissioned messenger authorized by the sender with authority to do certain things. In the Gospels, usually refers to the twelve disciples.
- **Shalom:** The fundamental greeting of Jewish people, meaning "peace be with you" but also implying a sense of well-being and blessing.
- **Sholiach:** (Hebrew) An appointed messenger in Jewish tradition.
- **Synagogue:** In the time of Jesus, functioned as a community center, a place of worship, and a location for local courts.
- **Assarion:** A Roman coin worth less than one-sixteenth of a denarius, representing less than an hour's wage for an average worker.
- **Hyperbole:** Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.
- **Yoke:** A wooden frame used to join animals for plowing or carrying loads. Used metaphorically to represent burdens, obligations, or systems of belief.
- **Sabbath:** The seventh day of the week, observed as a day of rest and worship by Jews.
- **Hades:** In Greek mythology, the underworld or realm of the dead.

#### Short Answer Quiz

**Instructions:** Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. Why does Jesus choose twelve disciples? What is the significance of this number?
2. What are the key components of the mission Jesus gives his disciples in Matthew 10?
3. How does Jesus instruct his disciples to respond to those who reject their message?
4. What reasons does Keener give for why John the Baptist might have doubted Jesus' identity?

5. How does Jesus respond to John the Baptist's doubts? What evidence does he offer?
6. What two Old Testament texts does Jesus evoke when describing the miracles he performs?
7. What is the meaning of Jesus' statement "Blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me"?
8. How does Jesus compare the people of his generation to "children sitting in the marketplaces"?
9. What judgment does Jesus pronounce on the cities of Capernaum, Bethsaida, and Chorazin?
10. What does Jesus mean when he says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"?

### Short Answer Quiz Answer Key

1. **Jesus chooses twelve disciples to symbolize his mission to Israel, as there were twelve tribes of Israel.** This number connects Jesus' ministry to the history and promises of the Old Testament.
2. **Jesus commissions his disciples to proclaim the kingdom of God, heal the sick, and cast out demons.** He also instructs them to travel simply, relying on God's provision and the hospitality of others.
3. **Jesus instructs his disciples to shake the dust off their feet as a symbolic gesture of disassociation from those who reject their message.** This action signifies that those who reject the message will face greater judgment.
4. **John the Baptist might have doubted because he expected a more immediate and dramatic manifestation of the kingdom, including judgment.** He was imprisoned and did not see the "fire" of judgment he anticipated.
5. **Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles he is performing—healing the sick, raising the dead, and preaching good news to the poor—as evidence of the kingdom's presence.** He asks John's messengers to report what they have seen and heard.
6. **Jesus' miracles evoke Isaiah 35:5-6 and Isaiah 61:1.** These passages speak of the restoration of creation and the good news being preached to the poor, linking Jesus' actions to the prophetic hope of God's kingdom.

7. **This statement refers to those who do not stumble over Jesus' humble origins or his message of repentance.** It implies that some will reject Jesus because he does not fit their expectations of a Messiah.
8. **Jesus compares them to children who are fickle and demanding, always changing their tune and expecting others to play along.** This analogy highlights the inconsistency and unwillingness of that generation to accept God's message, regardless of how it is delivered.
9. **Jesus pronounces a woe on these cities, stating that they will face a greater judgment than even Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom because they witnessed his miracles and teaching but did not repent.** Their level of exposure to the truth increases their accountability.
10. **Jesus offers rest from the burdens of sin, legalism, and the pursuit of worldly things.** He invites people to find true peace and fulfillment in a relationship with him, contrasting his offer with the Pharisees' restrictive understanding of the Sabbath.

## Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of Jesus sending his disciples out “as sheep among wolves” (Matthew 10:16). How does this image inform our understanding of the challenges and rewards of Christian discipleship?
2. Explore the relationship between miracles, signs, and the kingdom of God as presented in Matthew 10-11. What role do miracles play in demonstrating the reality and presence of the kingdom?
3. Discuss the various ways in which Jesus challenges the expectations of his contemporaries, including John the Baptist, the Pharisees, and the crowds. How do these challenges reveal the nature of Jesus' ministry and the true meaning of the kingdom?
4. Explain the significance of hospitality in the context of the mission Jesus gives his disciples. What does this emphasis on hospitality reveal about the nature of Christian community and the importance of welcoming others?
5. Compare and contrast the responses of John the Baptist and the people of the unrepentant cities to Jesus' ministry. What can we learn from their examples about the importance of faith, humility, and repentance?

## **5. FAQs on Keener, Matthew, Session 11, Matthew 11-12, Biblelearning.org (BeL)**

### **FAQ: The Mission of Jesus' Disciples and the Coming Kingdom**

#### **1. What is the primary mission that Jesus gives to his disciples?**

Jesus commissions his twelve apostles to proclaim the kingdom of God. This mission includes preaching and teaching about the kingdom, as well as demonstrating its power through healing the sick and casting out demons. The disciples are initially sent to Israel only, reflecting a short-term focus on reaching God's chosen people.

#### **2. Why are there twelve apostles?**

The number twelve likely symbolizes the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus choosing twelve disciples may represent his mission to restore and gather God's people, similar to the Dead Sea Scrolls' emphasis on a renewed Israel.

#### **3. How are the disciples instructed to live while carrying out their mission?**

Jesus tells his disciples to live simply, trusting God to provide for their needs. They are not to carry extra provisions or rely on wealth but depend on God's provision through the hospitality of others. This instruction echoes the examples of Old Testament prophets like Elijah and Elisha who lived simply and relied on God during times of apostasy.

#### **4. What does Jesus say about the response to his messengers?**

Hearers will be judged by their response to Christ's messengers. Those who receive the message and offer hospitality will receive a blessing. However, those who reject the message and refuse hospitality will face judgment, with their fate compared to the judgment of Sodom.

#### **5. What does Jesus say about persecution and suffering for his sake?**

Jesus warns his disciples that they will face persecution and suffering for following him. This opposition may come from local courts, synagogues, and even government officials. He encourages them to be bold and not fear those who threaten death, assuring them that God is sovereign and will vindicate them ultimately.



**6. Why does John the Baptist doubt Jesus, and what is Jesus' response?**

John the Baptist, while imprisoned, hears about Jesus' miracles and sends messengers to inquire if Jesus is truly the Messiah. John's doubt arises from not seeing the expected judgment and fire associated with the coming Messiah. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles as evidence of the kingdom's arrival and emphasizes that the kingdom is for the broken and marginalized.

**7. What is the significance of Jesus' miracles?**

Jesus' miracles are not random acts but signs of the coming kingdom of God. They offer a glimpse of the future restoration of creation and a reminder of God's power and compassion. The miracles also demonstrate that the kingdom is present in the lives of those touched by Jesus' power.

**8. What does Jesus say about rest and who can receive it?**

Jesus offers rest to those who come to him, contrasting with the Pharisees' legalistic understanding of rest. True rest is found in submitting to Jesus and accepting his yoke, which leads to true freedom and fulfillment in God's kingdom. This rest is not merely physical but spiritual, offering peace and hope amidst life's challenges.