

Matthew 10:23 Preaching the Coming of Christ

Introduction: Jesus had sent the apostles to preach the gospel to Israel. He warned them that there would be opposition, even outright persecution. In our text He instructs them to flee into another city and He promised to come to them.

I. How this text fits the Scripture record.

- A. For the most part, the apostles during the lifetime of Jesus were well received.
 - 1. Jesus was popular (as a miracle worker) among the masses of common people.
 - 2. Two apostles would go into a city and say “Perhaps you have heard of Jesus. He plans to come and visit your city. Gather your sick and be prepared for His coming. We believe He is the Messiah.”
 - 3. In most instances they were received well and a great crowd was ready when Jesus arrived.
 - 4. With six such teams going out ahead of Him Jesus was kept busy.
- B. But Jesus had warned that not all would receive them this well, Verses 14-15.
 - 1. The religious leaders in Israel grew to hate Jesus bitterly.
 - 2. Particularly the scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees.
 - 3. Because of their leadership position, they were apparently able to influence some cities to reject the apostles. See verse 14.
 - 4. In such cases the apostles were to flee to another city where they would be heard.
 - a. Paul used this method in preaching to Gentiles.
 - b. Pastors must sometimes use it in preaching to churches.

II. The problem of interpretation in the latter part of the verse. (What does Jesus mean by His promise to come?)

- A. Some say the promise to come refers to a promise to come to them as they traveled to the various cities.
 - 1. This may be.
 - 2. He did travel behind them and visited at least some of the cities of Israel that way.
- B. Some say the promise to come refers to the first Pentecost following the resurrection.
 - 1. They say He promised to come in the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. This may be since the Holy Spirit did come on Pentecost and does represent the Christ.
- C. Some say that the promise to come refers to the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.
 - 1. They say that is was a promise to come in judgment on a Christ rejecting Israel.
 - 2. This could be especially since Israel did reject the Christ and God did come in judgment upon them in 70 A.D.
- D. Some say that the promise to come refers to the second coming of Jesus to the earth.
 - 1. They explain that the apostles did not evangelize all of the cities because when the Jews rejected the Christ God turned away from them and turned to the Gentiles with the gospel.
 - 2. They further explain that when Jesus does return that all of the cities of Israel will be evangelized.
 - 3. I cannot say for certain if this is what Jesus was talking about in the text but it could be because the Jews did reject the Christ, God did turn away from them with the gospel, He did turn to the Gentiles, Jesus will return to the earth and the Jews will be evangelized.

III. Some things I do know for certain.

- A. Jesus whom the apostles preached is the Christ.
- B. He was crucified for the sins of man.
 - 1. The Jew's rejection was not a defeat; it was for Him a victory and a victory for all mankind.
 - 2. He arose from the grave and ascended to heaven.
 - 3. One of these days He will come again.
- C. Right now He looks down from heaven ready to save each person who trusts Him as Savior.
- D. It was right for those apostles to serve Him and it is right for all who are saved to serve Him.

Conclusion:

- 1. If you are saved and have never professed Jesus come and do so now.
- 2. If you need scriptural baptism come and get it.
- 3. If you need to move your membership come.
- 4. If you are saved by His grace commit yourself to serve Him.

Preached at Pleasant Hill 7-24-83 A.M.