Chapter 10 Answers

1. Ultimately, why does Jesus call the twelve disciples?
   1. He needs the help! In order for His message of salvation and eternal life to spread, He needs people to help carry and spread that message. That is the role of the apostle.
2. In verses 5 & 6, why does Jesus tell them (as He sends them out) to go only to the Israelites, and not to the Gentiles or Samaritans?
   1. Part of Jesus’ mission is to go to the “lost sheep of Israel.”
   2. The Israelites should already be prepared, through the knowledge of their faith, that the Christ was to come and that Jesus proves Himself to be the Christ.
   3. It serves as a sort of “practice run” for the disciples. They learn how to do mission work and see the power that just the name of Jesus bears.
3. Look at Luke 10:1-24, when Jesus sent out the 70. When looking at these two sections, why does Jesus send the disciples, and then the 70, out to preach, teach, and heal?
   1. See above.
4. During which service do we read from verses 5-8?
   1. The Holy Unction service. There are seven Epistles lessons, seven Gospel lessons, and 7 priestly prayers at the core of the service. All of these sections speak to the spiritual and physical healing Christ brings through the sanctification of the oil at Unction.
5. What is the price of true discipleship in verses 16-23?
   1. The price of true discipleship could very well be earthly hardships, loss of relationships and suffering. Just the name of Jesus will raise ire and hatred in certain people. We have to make countless choices in life, but the most important choice, and the one with the most serious consequences, is deciding if we will truly follow Christ. The serious earthly consequences could be in the tribulations above (including martyrdom). The most important consequence is entrance into God’s heavenly kingdom.
6. In verse 21, can you think of any examples in history of what is stated here?
   1. The example I gave during the discussion was communism in the Soviet Union. The state promoted the disintegration of the family and the elimination of faith in Christ by pitting family members loyal to the state against those with different views. Look at all communist upheavals. Look at all upheavals in which the state is put above all else. In order for the leaders to achieve that ideal, all other bonds must be broken; staring with faith and family.
7. Give an explanation for verses 26-27. How would Dan Brown view these lines???
   1. Ultimately, there are no secrets in Orthodoxy. Christ as taught us everything we need to know for salvation and there is nothing that has been given to one group over another. Everything is out in the open for everyone to hear, see, test and understand. We have mysteries: sacraments at which the activity of God cannot be fully understood. But mysteries are not secrets. They are simply things that cannot be completely understood by the human mind. In Orthodoxy we have no secrets. If someone tells you they have one and it is only given to those who are truly faithful, flee from that person!
8. Based on verses 29-31, what is YOUR value?
   1. More than anything else in creation! Of such value that God sent His only Son to die on the cross and rise from the dead so that we could live forever with Him in paradise.
9. In verses 34-36, what does Jesus mean? Did Jesus come to bring enmity within a household?
   1. Jesus did not come to bring hatred and war on earth. However, because God exists and sent His Son to transform the world and bring all to salvation, those who value earthly pursuits over everlasting life will fear the loss of their power, authority or wealth (or other worldly pursuits). It’s basically demonic. Think about it; the demons howl and gnash their teeth at the site of Jesus because they see their powerlessness against His image. Even the demons know all their pursuits are vanity against Christ, but they cannot help themselves so ensnared and ensnarled in their own avarice, selfishness and hubris. This is the same reaction some people will have to Christ since Christ is asking all of us to transform ourselves into more heavenly thinking, speaking, and acting beings. Christ does not bring evil; but evil will rear its head in the presence of Christ.
10. What is the point of verse 37-39?
    1. Verse 37: Christ must be first in all of our lives. Christ must come before our spouses, our children, our parents, our livelihoods…over all else. This does not mean our family members and worldly pursuits are unimportant. They are of immense value. But the value of Christ when FIRST in our lives is immeasurable. Notably, putting anything above Christ in our lives is akin, if not actually, idolatry – even when it comes to another human being. Our first love should always be for Christ.
    2. Verse 38: There are burdens that all of us must bear in our pursuit of Christ. Whether it’s the ire of co-workers and friends, the enmity of the government (see #6), personal struggles, etc., there is going to be weight we must all carry. Our pursuit of Orthodox spirituality (regular participation in the sacraments, an active prayer life, fasting, alms-giving, etc.) helps train us to life these burdens and weights.
    3. Verse 39: Eternal life, salvation, may very require us to renounce, or at least put on the “back burner” all worldly pursuits. If we treasure Christ and salvation, that is around which our earthly lives will revolve. If we treasure earthly desires and pleasures first, we risk everlasting life.
11. This is a discussion with His disciples in Chapter 10. How would you explain it in your own words? What is Jesus teaching us about discipleship?