

# Instruction and Sending Forth of the Twelve

*And when he called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*

*Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother.*

*Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus.*

*Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not.*

*But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

*And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

*Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*

*Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses.*

*Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.*

—Matthew 10:1-10

To the occultist it is not surprising that Christ Jesus chose *twelve* disciples, for this is a cosmic number. As stated in *The Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception*: “If we take balls of even size and try how many it will take to cover one and hide it from view, we shall find that it will require 12 to conceal a thirteenth ball. The ultimate division of physical matter, the true atom, found in interplanetary space, is thus grouped in twelve around

one. The twelve signs of the zodiac enveloping our solar system, the twelve semi-tones of the musical scale comprising the octave, the twelve Apostles who clustered around the Christ, etc., are other examples of this grouping of 12 and 1. The Rosicrucian Order is therefore also composed of 12 Brothers and a 13th.” We might mention also the 12 gates of the Holy City described in Revelation, referring to man himself, unfolding the powers of his 12 spiritual centers correlated to the 12 signs of the zodiacal cosmic womb.

Sometimes it is asked why Christ Jesus admonished the Apostles not to go “into the way of the Gentiles...but... rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” It was because the Jews were so enmeshed in the race that Jesus was born into a Jewish body so that the Christ might come as one of them and try to release them from their bondage. The practices of the Gentiles were different from those of the Jews and the Apostles were warned not to fall into their ways or customs, advice which no doubt served them well when they were placed in the difficult position of being shunned by both the Jews and the Gentiles. However, it would of course have been impossible to convert the Jews unless they had adhered to the customs and principles which distinguished Jew from pagan.

The powers indicated in the last several paragraphs of this passage, as well as the manner of living, apply not only to the twelve Apostles but to every sincere follower of Christ. Whatever faculty one may have developed by following the Christian teachings, it should be put to use in serving others, and for this no material reward should be expected. Neither should the Christian be concerned for his own welfare, since living according to cosmic precepts prepares one to receive what he needs. □