

# *“Before You Go...”*

Matthew 10:16

March 1, 2026

**INTRO:** What changes when you become a Christian?

**CONTEXT:** Matthew’s account of Christ discipling...

**BIG IDEA:** Growing in God-glorifying Christ-likeness is ALWAYS our goal!

**John 15:16** is a key contextual connection...

- *You did not choose Me...*
- *I chose you...*
- *AND I appointed/ordained you...*

*“Here are 2 of the best sermons I’ve ever heard.”* – Pastor Jeff

***“If Jesus Were The Pastor Of Your Church”***

(sermon by Francis Chan)

[https://youtu.be/havd\\_RVXOEM?si=B-xINGeOTIOci65G](https://youtu.be/havd_RVXOEM?si=B-xINGeOTIOci65G)

***“False Converts: The Suicide Of The Church”***

(sermon by Mark Dever)

<https://youtu.be/ZP9g8OjzMHk?si=NYkG4Spa2pMJVWy8>

# *“An Ordinary Ordination”*

Matthew 10:16

January 26, 2020

**INTRO:** Let me ask you a few questions as we begin...

- *What* exactly are we doing here today?
- *Why* are we doing it?
- *Where* did this idea come from?
- *Whose* idea is/was ordination anyway?
- *Curious?* I hope so...

**Let's Pray and get started...**

**T/S:** So... here's the most important ANSWER...

*We are here tonight to worship God & ordain Griffin...*

The beautiful thing is... in ordaining Griffin, we are worshipping God! Moreover, my prayer is that during our time together you will see how these two truths come together per God's Word, God's will, & God's ways.

**R.C. Sproul:** (final words from his final sermon)

*"I pray with all my heart that God will awaken each one of us today to the sweetness, the loveliness, the glory of the gospel declared by Christ."*

**BIG IDEA:** Ordinary-ordinations witness to Christ's extra-ordinary/odd invitation, transformation, & multiplication

*"A real Christian is odd... He feels supreme love for One whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see, expects to go to heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up, is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible, and knows that which surpasses knowledge."*

**- A.W. Tozer**

## **PREVIEW:**

- I. Ordination **Contextualization**
- II. Ordination **Clarification**
- III. Ordination **Celebration**

# I. Ordination **CONTEXTUALIZATION**

## ➤ **Micro:** Griffin's ordination

### *Raising A Modern Day Knight*

– by Robert Lewis:

Real men (1) reject passivity, (2) accept responsibility, (3) lead courageously, and (4) expect the greater reward... directly proportionate to one's obedience to God!

- Ordination is a **witness** to *Christ's sovereign grace*
- Ordination testifies to God's **providence** & plan!
- Ordination is an important & empowering **pivot** point on a person's **journey** with Jesus.
- Ordination is Griffin's next step in **Christ-likeness**

**T/S:** Ok... now let's look up to heaven & into God's Word

- **Micro** = me **parentally**
- **Macro** = me **pastorally** cf. *Apostle's Ordination*
  - See **ordination from Christ's perspective...**

**"Matthew 10 = the ordination of the 12..." - John MacArthur**

➤ Key: the **Context's Contrast & Continuity**

- CONTRAST = exclusive, personal particulars
- CONTINUITY = inclusive, eternal principles

➤ We will focus on the inclusive & the ordinary

➤ Let's begin by *zooming out* & then *zooming in*

➤ **Matthew 9** = Jesus goes, heals, reveals, calls, **heals** (4 more times with 5 people), & exhorts

- First verse: *And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.*
- Last verse: **38** *therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Declares: *there's a high quality harvest, but a low quantity of harvesters...*

➤ **Matthew 11**

○ Opening verses: **1** *When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.*

○ Chapter flow:

- Jesus answers & affirms John...
- Jesus declares: *"Woe to you!"* to 3 cities:

- Last verse: *My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.*

➤ **Matthew 10** = *“the ordination of the 12 apostles” and preparation for the coming Church...*

- First verse: *And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*

- **EXCLUSIVE...** (promised powers)
- **INCLUSIVE...** (perpetual principles)

- Chapter flow:

- ***Calls-in*** the 12 Apostles
- Jesus ***sends-out*** the 12... (vv.5-15)
- Jesus **exhorts**: Persecution will come...
- Jesus **declares**: He came with a **sword**
- Jesus **promises rewards**...

- Chapter closing: *“Whoever receives you receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”*

**T/S:** In the middle of the middle of the middle...

## II. Ordination **CLARIFICATION**

*Behold, **I-send-you-out** as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.*

**\*\*\* 10 Ornaments of Ordinary Ordinations \*\*\***  
(per Matthew 10:16)

*Behold, I send you out*

(Selected, Set-apart, Sent)

**1. SELECTED** sovereignly & Spirit-empowered

*Giving your heart to Christ is NOT the gospel. Salvation comes from some (miraculous) thing that Christ gives you, NOT something that you give to Christ. - Charles H. Spurgeon*

**GRACE!**

**2. SET-APART**

# LOVE!

John 3:16... Acts 1:8...

## 3. SENT

### MISSION!

*(Go fishin! - Matthew 4:19)*

John 20:21.... Matthew 28:18ff... Titus 2:1&15

No cocooning for the commissioned!

*as sheep in the midst of wolves*

(Be Sheep, Submerged/Surrounded, Susceptible)

## 4. Be SHEEP – cf. John 10

*Vulnerability, not stupidity, is the point of calling us sheep.*

– Piper

➤ **Dependent** (vs. independent)

...hear & heed... are led & fed by The Shepherd...

God's sheep survive & thrive in His family & flock!

## 5. SUBMERGED & Surrounded

*A big part of ordination is preparation for persecution.*

Jim Elliot could have stayed at base camp...

David Livingstone could have received more helpers  
had he stayed closer to the "good roads"  
(read Hebrews 10...11... AND 12!)

### ➤ **Know the 5 types of people...**

- I. *Wolves,*
- II. *Goats,*
- III. *Sheep,*
- IV. *Sheep-dogs,*
- V. *Shepherds*

### ➤ **Bold & Courageous**

Let us not glide through this world and then slip quietly into heaven without having blown the trumpet loud and long for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Let us see to it that the devil will hold a thanksgiving service in hell, when he gets the news of our departure from the field of battle. - **C.T. Studd**

**c. Battle ships are not made for the harbor! 6.**

*“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come & die.”*

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**6. Susceptible** – (in the midst of wolves)

**a. Susceptible to Antagonists**

*You can't confront a God-hating world without a reaction...*

If it does not come from a loving heart & the Word of God, don't let it in. - David Orr

**b. Susceptible to Anger**

*Your happiness may decrease so your holiness can increase.*

**c. Susceptible to Aggression**

*“They that live godly will suffer persecution”*  
- 2 Timothy 3:12

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for My name’s sake...”* - Jesus, the Christ

#### d. Susceptible to Attack

*“I bear in my body the marks of Christ.”* (Galatians 6:17)

***Beware the warring wolves... (if you see them, they’re either the dumb wolves, or more likely, they are the deceptive decoys designed to give you over-confidence).***

- Jesus had a wolf in His small church family...
- Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29; Titus 1:11

#### e. Susceptible to All-out war

*Always remember... a man is defined by BOTH... who he lives FOR... AND... who/what he fights against!*

#### **6 GREAT COSTS OF THE GREAT COMMISSION CALL:**

1. Arrested by authorities (v.17)
2. Family betrayal (v.21)
3. Hated by all (v.22)
4. Persecuted & driven out (v.23)
5. Maligned/mistreated (v.25)
6. Put to death/killed physically (v.28) – see Heb. 11

*Picking up your cross daily MEANS, at the very least, accepting the reality of actually having a cross to carry – a means of intentional, unavoidable, sacrificial death...*

## *Therefore/so*

### **7. Be STRATEGIC**

**Ready, Thoughtful, Intentional**

*“We may not win every battle...  
but we ought not be surprised by any of them.” - JDP*

*be shrewd as serpents*

### **8. Be SHREWD as serpents** (my Ph.D in street sin)

**BE wise & righteous in the midst of all that’s wrong.**

**Out maneuver the manipulators...**

**LEARN HOW TO PUT THE LIGHTS ON WITH LIARS...**

**BE saintly & street-wise with sin & sinners.**

## **BE THE ACRONYM S.H.R.E.W.D.**

**S** = Sanctifying-Slave & Stabilizing Soldier

➤ **Beware** building or becoming a *“rodeo clown”*

*And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us, We will not  
fear, for God hath willed His truth to  
triumph through us... - Martin Luther (A Mighty Fortress)*

**H** = Holy, Humble, Helpful, & Hope-filled

*The Christian's model & measure is a modest Messiah...*

➤ **Be John 3:30!**

Most people assume that the real test of a man happens in the midst of his adversities. In reality, the best measure of a man can be seen in how he handles attention, accolades, and affirmation. You see, everyone wants to get up when they've been knocked down... but few are the men who seek to bend down when the world wants to lift them up. - JDP

**R** = Repentant, Responsive & Resilient

**E** = Edifying Evangelist who missionally...

*Engages, Explains, Equips, Empowers, & Exemplifies like Christ*

**W** = BE known by your...

- Worship
- Walk
- Work
- War &
- Witness

*Always remember... lips lie, lives tell the truth!* - JDP

**D** = Devoted to deliberate and continuous development as a disciple who makes disciples who makes disciples... (cf. 2 Timothy 2:1ff)

*ALL ordinations include a call to **be S.H.R.E.W.D.!***

*and*

## 9. Be **SIMULTANEOUS**

*See ordination's **both/and principle & tension***

*Never forget to Always **BE a both/and believer!***

## III. Ordination **CELEBRATION**

*innocent as doves.*

Richard **Blackaby** said:

*The revelation is the **invitation** (to mission)...  
I'd like to amen that and add:*

*"The revelation is the **CELEBRATION!**"*

- Sovereign-grace & human-responsibility
- Love God & hate sin
- Armor of God & Fruit of the Spirit
- God's rod & staff (draw & drive sheep)

*BEing shrewd **AND** innocent means loving people  
enough to risk them not liking you...*

You can be right but if you're not righteous, your wrong. At the same time, being righteous in attitude while wrong in actions doesn't make you right. Innocence is exemplified by being both right per God's Word AND... righteous in God's eyes.

**Augustine: *'He cannot die badly who lives well; and scarcely shall he die well who lives badly'***

To be innocent in shrewdness requires that our head, our heart, and our hands be informed, inspected, & inspired, by God's Word, God's will, & God's ways...  
Amen & AMEN!

## **10. Be SPIRIT-led**

Here, motive, message & methods ALL matter!

➤ Remember where we began...

**ORDINARY-ORDINATIONS WITNESS TO  
CHRIST'S EXTRA-ORDINARY INVITATION,  
TRANSFORMATION, & MULTIPLICATION**

*A holy calling will not save an unholy man.*

- Richard Baxter

*This is eternally important because...*

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS WHO YOU BECOME...**

**CLOSE:** (micro... macro... micro... macro)

While tonight has been Griffin's "official" ordination, I pray that for everyone else... this has been a special time of "ordinary ordination."

Even more, as was prayed over me when I was ordained, it is now my blessing to pray over any & all who have been captured by grace, this simple and profound prayer:

**MAY YOU BECOME A DOUBLE-FISTED SEED-SOWER WHO GROWS COMFORTABLE BEHIND THE PLOW.**

**BE the 10 Ornaments of Ordinary Ordination:**

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1. **Selected** (Sovereignly Spirit-filled)
2. *Set-Apart*
3. **Sent**
4. *Sheep*

5. **Submerged** (Surrounded)

6. *Susceptible*

7. **Strategic**

8. *S.H.R.E.W.D.*

9. **Simultaneous**

10. *Spirit-led*

And at the same time, for all of Christ's miraculously, ordinarily, and/or vocationally ordained salt, light, aroma, disciples, sent-ones, witnesses, ambassadors... & my beloved son, I pray:

From this day forward, forevermore, you will be an ordained saint, sheep, under-shepherd, a Spirit-filled, divinely selected, set-apart, sent, servant-leader, in the Lord's aromatic army of ambassadors.

While always cherishing both the privilege AND the responsibility that comes with your calling, may you bring God glory as you champion both His gospel and His grace, all while being a disciple who makes disciples who make disciples... Together, living & loving like answers to Christ's John 17 prayer, all supernaturally unified as double-fisted seed sowers who grow comfortable behind the plow.

Amen & AMEN!

Let's PRAY!