

SENT Into
Luke 10:1-12

Sent Into the Harvest

- **Why?** – We are sent by the Lord of the Harvest, it is HIS harvest field (10:2) This is the end time gathering of God's people (Isaiah 27:12).
- **What?** – Though still confined to Israelite villages for now, Jesus will eventually expand their commission to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ENDS of the earth." Disciples are commissioned to go into not only their areas of COMFORT, but also among people with whom they may be decidedly uncomfortable.
- **When?** – The harvest image also conveys a sense of URGENCY. A farmer has only days to get the crop in before it starts to spoil, get ruined or eaten.
"The day is short and the work is great, but the workers are lazy; however, the wages are high since the owner is in a hurry"
(Rabbi Tarfon, Pirke Avot 2:15).
Jesus is saying that our mission has great urgency — there is much that God wants us to do for his KINGDOM, and the time is shorter than we think! (Eph. 5:16).

Sent Into the Community

- **Who?** – Who is my NEIGHBOR? Jesus' call to go to "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth" suggests socio-economic, cultural, and religious distinctions. What might that look like for us?
- **Where?** – Jesus assumes that the disciples would start with the COMMUNITY around them, though it is sometimes easier to go to people we don't know. What do we think about our community? Jesus says the harvest is "PLENTIFUL" – do we believe it is plentiful around us? Are we too concerned about our reputation to share with those we know? Is it easier to send missionaries money than to be missionaries ourselves?
- **How?** – Jesus talks about the need to "ENTER" into the community, and not just for a brief visit: "Stay there, eating and drinking" (v. 7), and settle in: they are to receive the hospitality of food and lodging, without taking anything extra along for the journey. He's talking about being a part of the COMMUNITY. Can we go into it willing to be served, to connect with their culture (and not bring our own)?

A large part of evangelism is ACCEPTING people, not necessarily what they believe or do, but for who they are. Part of the failure of evangelism through the years is when we treat people like OBJECTS rather than someone to befriend and share with the greatest news of all: that they can be part of the kingdom of God!

Sent With
Luke 10:1-12

In Luke 10:1-12, we've focused on being SENT in three ways:

- SENT BY the King, the "Lord of the harvest"
- SENT FOR the kingdom of God as representatives of the King.
- SENT INTO the harvest field, starting locally and broadening to the ends of the earth.

SENT WITH the Holy Spirit – Jesus promised the Spirit's presence in mission.

- **Lacking** – The Holy Spirit makes up for what we LACK, which is encouraging, given Jesus' commands here (Luke 10:3-4): *Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.* It is a call to have a balance between vulnerability and TRUST.
- **Empowering** – In Acts 1:8, right before his ascension into heaven, Jesus promises POWER to the SENT through the Holy Spirit. He also prepares people's hearts ahead of time and uses US as his instruments.

SENT WITH Kingdom Partners

- **Kingdom Partners** – Jesus sent his disciples out two-by-two, the number needed for a legal witness, a structure of accountability and SUPPORT, and a reminder that being sent, evangelism, is meant to be a RELATIONAL process—utilizing each's others gifts and knowledge. In addition to the Holy Spirit, we need each other.
- **Church Mission** – Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12-14 that (1) the church is a BODY, each member with an important function; and (2) we have varying spiritual gifts for the COMMON good; we are to rely on each other. "Kingdom mission is first and foremost church mission" (Scot McKnight, *Kingdom Conspiracy*)

SENT to be WITH the People – McKnight adds: "Kingdom mission today only works when tied to our context as we seek to live out Jesus' kingdom vision in our world."

- **Living with Our Neighbor** – Jesus talks about the need to "enter" into the community, and not just for a brief visit. He's talking about being part of the COMMUNITY.
- **Loving Our Neighbor** – We should focus on those around the church facility, but we also should love our neighbors where we LIVE, work, play, go to school. "When the church is the church it is fully engaged in loving everyone as neighbors" (McKnight). "Neighbor" isn't always defined by proximity; it means BEING good neighbors to others as we encounter them. How might we be "insiders" in our community, serving as a BRIDGE for people to Jesus Christ?

SENT By
Luke 10:1-12

SENT By the King (Luke 10:1-3)

1. **Lord of the Harvest** – Jesus sends them out ...
 - *On God's Behalf* – We're not going out for the APPEARANCE but for God. When it becomes a numbers game, we forget the real reason we are SENT.
 - *Through Prayer and in God's Power* – The first call is to PRAYER: the potential abundance of the harvest, the small number of workers and the dangers of the task mean God's POWER and help are essential.
2. **Appointed** - Jesus commissioned them with the word GO (Matthew 28:18-20).
Where am I going? How am I going? Am I going? This commission is also given in the Old Testament, to proclaim "your God REIGNS" (Isaiah 52:7).
3. **Equipped**: Jesus even reiterated this commission in Acts 1:8, in which he ...
 - *Promises Power to the SENT* – The Holy Spirit came to EMPOWER the church, and to give spiritual GIFTS.
 - *Plans the Pattern for the SENT* – Jesus also gave them a game plan: start with those in CLOSEST proximity (Jerusalem); go next to the community around you (Judea), those with whom you have connections but also those you often ignore because they're DIFFERENT (Samaria); and then to the ends of the earth (Gentiles!), people very different and highly suspect.

SENT "After this" – What is the context of Jesus sending the 72?
Luke 9 tells us:

1. **The Precedent**: Sending of Twelve Apostles, which points to a kingdom:
 - *Not just for Jews but for* GENTILES also
 - *Not just for Jesus & Apostles but for all* DISCIPLES
2. **The Power**: Feeding, Transfiguration and Healing – The previous events are all powerful reminders of the POWER available for them (and us!) for Jesus' mission.
3. **The Price**: Rejection or Worse – But also the COST of discipleship.

SENT "Ahead" of Jesus as...

1. **Shock Troops (or shocked troops?)**: They were sent ahead to towns where Jesus has yet to go, so they're not sure they'll be ACCEPTED.
2. **Heralds**: the king is coming! – They go as heralds announcing the KING, with his authority—like John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3-5/Luke 3)
3. **Lambs**: who come with innocence, TRUSTING the shepherd, and not in their own strength. They must relinquish control to the one by whom they are SENT.

SENT For
Luke 10:1-12

Jesus, while on earth, represented God in the flesh. But he now calls and trains his DISCIPLES to do that, which follows from our creation in God's image:

- "Image" points to our *role* as God's REPRESENTATIVE to the world.
- "Likeness" pointing to our *form* as God's REPRESENTATIVE

Proclaim: "the kingdom of God is near" (Luke 10:9, 11).

- A. **The Nearness of the Kingdom** – This was the message of John the Baptist, then Jesus, and now his disciples. They were seeing God's immediate PRESENCE in power in the ministry of Jesus: the long-awaited kingdom of God is HERE!
- B. **The Signs of the Kingdom** – The disciples who were sent were to do the same thing as Jesus: "heal the sick" (9). Isaiah 52:7 describes signs that the kingdom of God has arrived. Healing the sick is a sign of the dawn of the ARRIVAL of the kingdom.
- C. **The Kingdom Defined** – "The kingdom of God" was a SPIRITUAL term.
 1. **Misperceptions of the Kingdom** – It was not simply the (1) age to come, eternity, (HEAVEN), (2) an earthly political rule, or (3) God's providential rule over creation.
 2. **Jesus' View of the Kingdom** – Jesus taught the kingdom of God as...
 - *God's Rule* – His rule specifically over his PEOPLE. The rabbis felt if a person confessed God as Lord alone, he came under the rule/kingdom of God.
 - *God's Power* - Kingdom is as an active force in the world, energized by God's POWER, that seeks to bring about healing and salvation.
 - *God's People* are those who have come under God's rule are those who do God's will and carry on the active work of the kingdom in his power. Jesus' disciples were expected to extend and spread the REIGN of his kingdom..

Pronounce – Like Jesus, the disciples are going to run into the same two reactions: positive (6-9) and negative (10-12) to this same proclamation of the kingdom (9,11).

- A. **Reception and Reward** - Even as Jesus encountered a MIXED reception, so the student is not any better than the teacher, the disciple than the rabbi.
- B. **Shalom** – BLESS those who welcome you. Shalom is a right relationship with God, other PEOPLE, and the created world. Where is that shalom needed in my community? What would it look like if we approached people with PEACE first, before one's own opinions or agendas?
- C. **Judgment** – Shaking the dust off one's feet was judgment on those who failed to receive God's message. As an AMBASSADOR of Jesus Christ, your reception is his reception.

Is the proclamation of the kingdom and shalom shaming our world to the point where the power and grace of the King brings other to accept his kingdom RULE upon themselves?