



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Reaching a city: Go!”

Ps. James Lowe - 9/22/2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is a situation where you took on more than you could handle?
- Who do you often look to for help in difficult times?
- What is your favorite restaurant to bring guests to, and why?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Selected readings: Luke 10:1-12; Mark 4:10-20; 1 Corinthians 3:6-8; James 5:16

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus sends a company of disciples ahead of him to preach the Gospel. As Jesus sends them, he gives them instructions on how to proceed. These instructions serve as an example for all believers on how to participate in the great commission. Here are three key steps we can take away from this text.

First, we must **pray!** *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, **pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers** into his harvest.” (Luke 10:2 ESV)* Jesus sent seventy-two disciples, and there were still not enough laborers to bring in the full harvest. This is a challenge the church faces today. The imperative, “send out” comes from the Greek word *ekballo*, which means to violently and forcefully thrust forth. There are countless followers of Christ who need to be forcefully thrust forth as laborers into the great harvest the Lord has prepared for them. Our prayers play a part in seeing the body of Christ become engaged in the great commission.

Next, we must **go!** We must participate in the mission we prayed for. **“Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”** (Luke 10:3 ESV) This is a not a suggestion from God, but a command. God is sending us to reach our city like lambs amid wolves. Wolves are predators, and lambs are prey. To be sent out like a lamb among wolves is for the prey to approach a predator who seeks to devour it. Indeed, every apostle was martyred for this message save the Apostle John. Sharing the message of the gospel can be dangerous. We have no control over how people will respond to the message, but we are still called to proclaim the good news of the kingdom regardless of the risks, or rejection involved.

Lastly, we must **trust!** Have faith that God will provide the means to reach those whom we are being sent to. **“Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages...”** (Luke 10:5-7 ESV) God will provide. Jesus sent his disciples with great vulnerability and need. The disciples could not bring anything with them and were forced to completely trust in God’s provision. When we respond in obedience to do God’s will, God’s way; He will supply whatever is needed to accomplish the mission.

Pray, go, trust. We are called to reach our city. Some will sow the seed, and others will water, but it is God alone who causes things to grow. (1 Cor. 3:6-8 ESV)

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are some obstacles you must overcome to begin sharing the Gospel?
- What groups of people do you feel God is sending you to reach?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the promise of a harvest, and for the freedom to openly share our faith.
- Ask God for the laborers to be thrust into the harvest field.
- Ask God to be one of the laborers. (Here I am send me!)