

Luke 10 1-20 The Harvest

The Workers

The Wisdom

The Winners

Today I have a very simple question. How many disciples did Jesus have?

Well, I was going to head on out for an early lunch but if we can't even get that one right, we might need to just stick it out today.

-He had many disciples, and we have talked about what a disciple is? A disciple is a follower of Christ. Last week Scott was setting me up for this week and he didn't even know it. He said there is a difference in a religion and a relationship.

-Without the relationship with Jesus we cannot be true disciples. When we talk about the disciples in the bible, we only really think about the 12 because they are the ones who spent the most time with Him, and we hear about the most.

-We will learn about 70ish more today, and what they were instructed to do and how to handle the different situations they would surely encounter.

-"So wait pastor" you say there was more than 12 people who followed Jesus? When we say it that way it would make total sense for Him to have more than the 12.

-This is sometimes hard for some "Christians" to hear. Jesus sending out this other group of disciples shows us that the work of a disciple is not only for a select few. It actually bothers two types of people, the select few who love the attention from doing everything and those who chose not to be involved in anything.

-We talked last time I was up here about making disciples and that it will cost you something. It cost Jesus to save us, so it should cost us too! This cost means it is worth something. You are worth it for Jesus to have sacrificed everything for..... So, what is it worth to you?

-We will see what Jesus call's these 70 other disciples he sent out and what He tells them too really be excited about. We all have times in life that we are excited about.

-For my family it is vacation time, we plan, prepare and look forward to that week or so all year! When I say plan, I mean plan. When Jenn and I were planning on going on our first vac together I was getting everything figured out. What we wanted to do, making reservations, looking at attractions. Then set into writing out our whole week's itinerary. She thought I was out of my mind for planning out almost every minute of our trip. She asked me why I did that, and how did I plan to enjoy something so structured. After 10 years of vac now we sit down as a family every year and plan out our entire trip. We don't hold ourselves to the plan so strict that we can't move things around or get upset if something doesn't work out the way we hoped. But we get to enjoy every last drop of fun out of our time away.

-There are times that are way more important and are on a much more strict time schedule. Tax season for the accountant, finals for students and teachers, deployment for soldiers. Harvest time is a very important time for farmers.

-There is a certain time frame that farmers have to harvest their crops. Everything they do all year plowing, fertilizing, planting and praying all focus on bringing in the largest harvest possible. Crops that are harvested too early may not fully develop, too late and they could rot.

-We learned this last year with the pumpkin sale that we did. We have such a beautiful harvest, but there were some pumpkins that were not quite ready and never got there. Then there were some that were already past the best if used by date when we got there to harvest them. I think we planned accordingly as the largest portion of our crops were perfect.

-Jesus' whole earthly ministry was about bringing in a harvest of souls. His teaching was all about bringing the message of the father's love, forgiveness and the need for salvation. Which He knew all about since it was accomplished through His sacrificial death on the cross.

-Today we will see Jesus send out more of His faithful followers to do the same work as John the Baptist. To go and prepare the way for the Lord.

Stand and read Luke 10 1-20 Pray

As we go through the scripture today I want you to see 3 points.

The Workers, The Wisdom and The Winners

The Workers

VS1A -Depending on what version you read it may say 70 or 72. NIV and CSB are 72, while KJV 70.

-We are not sure why 70 but there are a few things that this could be traced back to.

-This number could refer back to Genesis where there is a list of gentile nations descended from Noah. In Hebrew there are 70 nations listed and in Greek there are 72. So, Jesus is appointing one evangelist from each nation.

-This could be a connection to the 70 elders who went up Mt Sinai with Moses

-It could represent the 70 members of the Sanhedrin, and Jesus was showing them He is establishing a new order.

VS1B Jesus knew His time was getting close, so He is sending out more evangelist to prepare the way for when He comes to town.

-So why 2 at a time? In the old testament they were required the testimony of two witnesses, and its always better traveling with a partner... unless your partner has to pee 5 miles after getting back on the interstate from a bathroom break.

-It does also help keep them from getting discouraged along the way. Remember this was not always a popular message they were bringing. Many people just like today did not want to hear about Jesus.

VS2 – Jesus uses this analogy He because it was so familiar to these people. Today so few people actually take up agriculture on a large scale. It takes a lot of preparation and planning. It takes careful consideration, and they have to be looking months down the road to be completely ready.

- Jesus saw how large the field was, meaning the harvest was to be large as well. Just as a farmer would look over a golden field ripe and ready for harvest and not have anyone to gather it. The thought of it going to waste destroys Him.

- A economist came up with the 80/20 rule. And it is that 80% of all consequences come from 20% of the causes. This applies to more than you think. In your job if you do all the little things right then you save yourself 80% of your future problems. In church 20% of the people take care of 80% of the issues.

- He tells them to pray, but what does he tell them to pray for? Does He say pray for the lost, no. Now it is not wrong to pray for the lost, whether that be our family or friends or a stranger down the road. In this text he says pray for WORKERS. This is for the ones that are already doing the work to be strengthened and that the disciples they have made would start stepping up and doing the work too.

- Look at it like this. Say you have 5000 acres to bring in and you're doing it with a 60s model Ford 8N. You would work all day and hardly make a difference. Who notices the need for help the farmer or the guy sitting across town on the couch? The farmer feels it, see it, his tractor knows it better than the guy on the couch. Only those laboring in God's field know the need for help.

VS3-4 – Jesus is telling them that their prayers will be answered, they will be fruitful. Through their work they will make disciples.

-So, if you have ever played sports, you have probably heard a great or at least a good pep talk from your coach. At first this does not sound like a good pep talk.

-Pray for more help, I am sending you out as defenseless lambs into the midst of devouring wolves. But if you pay attention to what He is saying you will be comforted.

This journey will not be filled with parades and puppy dog kisses. There will be people who simply do not want to hear it, and there will be others who may use violence to tell you they do not approve of

what you are doing. But Jesus tells them that He is sending them, He is the great shepherd, and He will lead them wherever they go.

-He urges them to GO, not to waste time packing, or preparing. He did not want them to be distracted, not by material things or by ceremonies of etiquette. Not so much to be rude to others but not to sidetracked by social concerns. This is true of the church today, we can be easily distracted and do not get the urgency of the work. This shows us that God wants us to depend on Him for every provision as we GO and tell others about Him.

The Worker, Now **The Wisdom**

VS5,6,7 – It was customary for someone traveling such as these fellas to stay with someone of good standing. In those days most of the Inns were more for prostitution and not suitable for godly people. So, they should stay with a good upstanding family and welcome anything they offered them as payment for the work they were doing and not as charity. But they should not go begging from house to house. They needed to trust God to provide all they needed.

VS8,9 – When they healed the sick this was an act of compassion, but it helps with bringing in a lot of attention. Who of you are in church today because someone loved you enough to take you to church when you were little? How many times has someone helped you and you were drawn to that person? It is just how we are. So as these guys were out preaching and healing people, the ones they helped were drawn to them. If we live out our faith through love for others as Jesus loves us, then people will see that and will want what we have. We should share that we love them and serve them because of our love for Jesus, who loved us first. If we do not make this known, then we are taking the credit from Jesus who motivated us to do the work in the first place.

VS10,11 – They will inevitably end up somewhere they are not welcomed. Jesus tells them to go out into the street and publicly announce that the kingdom of God has come near, they will not even take the dust of this town with them if they do accept God. This is not to intimidate them but intended to convert. The God of second chances will still do a work in those towns.

-The fact still remains whether accepted or rejected the hearer will be held accountable for their choice.

VS12,13,14,15 A lot of times these few verses are skipped but there is some meat in there, so we are not gonna skip it. VS 12 lets them know that the fate they know will happen to the worse town of history will be better than what will happen to them.

-These three towns are on the north side of the sea of Galilee. Jesus grew up just down the road from here and He spent a lot of time in Capernaum during His Galilean ministry. They heard Him teach, they saw many miracles, so He is letting them know since they knew Him so well, that if they did accept Him they had no excuse. Even though these other towns' sins may have been worse they did not have the benefit of knowing Jesus personally. So, they will not be judged as harshly.

VS16 – Jesus sent them out knowing that some would not take this to heart, they would not accept Him as their savior. These 70 and us need to realize that it is not us that lost people we encounter accept or reject. We should not dwell on the fact that someone was not accepting of the message we are told to give. What we have to be worried about is representing Jesus, if they reject us, they reject Him and God.

The Worker, **The Wisdom**, **The Winners**

VS17 – Well we see none of the lambs were eaten by the wolves. So, the shepherd did protect them. If you remember He did not tell them to cast out demons, although it may have been part of the healing that He did command them to do. But when we do His work boldly, He will bless us in ways beyond our expectations.

-Did you catch they said, “in your name”, they are clearly giving Him the glory for it and not taking any of it for themselves. Once we start relying on miracles or numbers that we have brought to the Lord or taking credit for what has happened we are already heading down a dark path. The only thing we can rely on is the name of Jesus. And He deserves all the credit.

VS18 –Satan is a Hebrew word that was transferred to Greek by transliteration. This is where a word is translated to another language by making it sound the same. It was also translated to English this way, so it sounds about the same in all three languages. But the Hebrew is where we find the best meaning. It actually means “adversary, opponent or enemy”.

-So, Jesus is saying that He saw His enemy fall from heaven in a dramatic way, like lightning.

There are 4 falls of Satan.

1. From glorified to profane
2. From access to heaven to restricted to earth
3. From bonded to earth to bottomless pit for 1000 years
4. From the pit to the lake of fire

In this scripture Jesus is talking about the first fall, it was Satan’s immediate judgement against his rebellion of God.

-This is also wake up call for Christians, if Satan wasn’t too good to be kicked out of heaven for His prideful nature... then neither are we. In the work we are called to do, there is always the danger of self-glorification.

VS19 – Jesus is telling them that they have been given authority over evil, snakes and scorpions are symbols of evil. This is where some people get the idea that they can handle snakes and if they have enough faith, they will not be harmed, and those who do get bit just did not believe hard enough.

-This actually translates more to “In nothing will He” talking about Satan “Hurt you”. Jesus is promising that protection against the enemy, not the hazards of life.

VS20 – We do often show excitement for the fruit that our work produces. And it is ok for us to be happy and joyful because someone accepts Christ through a work we did. Even giving the glory to God for all that is done.

-These men had overcome great adversity as citizens of earth, being forced to pay Roman taxes, carry Roman soldiers gear, obey Roman governors. Now being citizens of the kingdom of God and having power over demons is great, but their kingdom citizenship is still the greater gift.

-We need to remember that nothing is better than the eternal salvation that he gave to us! Nothing should be sweeter than that to Christian.