

Pressing Our Boundaries

Following Jesus - Hempfield UMC - 2/19/17

One day, Jesus sent out 70 disciples to carry the message of the Gospel outward and to experience for themselves how God would provide. Jesus will continually press the boundaries of our comfort and train us to trust more deeply in God's provision.



Observations

The Mission of the 70 (Part One)

Luke 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. 2 He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. 5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' 6 And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. 7 Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. 8 Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; 9 cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' 12 I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Doing Work in Advance of Christ

Jesus sends us out to prepare people to respond to Him. This is the basis for all evangelism.

The Motive

Jesus was passionate about the harvest of souls. In order for us to be effective, we must share in this same motive.

Intentional Dependency

Jesus wanted his disciples to learn to be dependent upon God. He places us in situations that require us to trust in God's provision. When we trust in ourselves, we are limited to our personal resources. When we trust in God, our resources are limitless.

The Message is about the Kingdom

Jesus trained his disciples to carry the message of the kingdom into the world. The kingdom of God is God's plan to restore humanity to himself through the work of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Individual Responsibility

Once the gospel is proclaimed, the hearers are responsible for their own response. Sometimes we need to learn to let go.

The Return of the 70 (Part Two)

Luke 10:17-20

17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” 18 He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. 19 See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Application

for abundant living:



Assurance

The gift God gives to free us from concern about ourselves so we can invest our energies in reaching others.



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

What evidence do you see that the kingdom of God has come near?

How can we work together to prepare others to receive Christ?

How can we deal with rejection when people do not receive the message?

In what areas can we offer healing to the people in our community?

If we pray as Jesus commanded and ask God to send workers into his harvest field, what do you think God will do next? (Pray this prayer now.)