

The Harvest Call: Mission, Message & Motivation, 6 July 2025

Sermon on Luke 10:1-23

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

Today in Luke 10, Jesus sends out 72 disciples, not just the Twelve. This is **our** commissioning too. Let's see our call through three lenses: **Mission, Message, and Motivation**.

1. Our MISSION: Go & Pray (v1-7, 16)

Pray FIRST: Jesus' very first instruction isn't "Go preach," but "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers." (v2). God's mission (*Missio Dei*) has a church, and we're invited to be part of this mission. Today Jesus reminds us that our mission starts on our knees, recognizing the harvest belongs to God, and the need is vast. We pray for workers – including ourselves! As the Blackaby Study Bible puts it:

Each of us has the opportunity to represent Christ. God's Spirit will lead us to share the good news with those in darkness so they have the opportunity to accept the truth of Christ and to believe in Him. God will use us to plant the seeds of salvation in people's hearts to prepare them for Christ's second coming.

Go DEPENDENTLY: "Take no purse, no bag, no sandals." (v4) This isn't about poverty; it's about ****dependence****. We rely completely on God's provision, not our own resources or clever plans. God opens the doors. He always surprises but rarely disappoints.

Go FOCUSED: "Do not greet anyone on the road" (v4) and 'stay where you are welcomed' (v.7). This is about stability and avoiding distraction. The mission is urgent. Don't get sidetracked by endless debates, worldly anxieties, or minor disputes that drain energy. Stay on task.

2. Our MESSAGE: Nearness & Love (v5-9, 11)

"Peace to this house." (v5): We carry God's shalom – wholeness, well-being, reconciliation.

"The Kingdom of God has come near." (v9, 11): This is the core announcement and the great proclamation of the Christian faith! God isn't distant. In Jesus, His rule, His power, His presence has broken into our world. Hope is tangible, and it is a person -Jesus Christ of Nazareth (see Romans 5)!

"Heal the sick..." (v9): The message isn't just words. It's demonstrated in acts of compassion and power that reveal God's love breaking through. We show the Kingdom's nearness by embodying God's care for all those tried by war, poverty, violence, injustice and sickness.

3. Our MOTIVATION: Eternal Security, Not Earthly Success (v17-20)

The disciples return thrilled: "Lord, even the demons submit to us!" (v17) It's heady stuff! Power feels good. Triumphalism is seductive. But Jesus redirects: "Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you..." (v20) Worldly success – numbers, influence, visible power – is *not* the ultimate measure.

The TRUE Joy: "...rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (v20) This is our bedrock motivation! Our identity, security, and eternal value are settled by God's grace. We are loved, chosen, and secure in Him. This keeps us steady when the mission is hard, when results seem small, when the world ignores us.

Conclusion:

Our call is clear:

MISSION: Pray fervently for workers. Go dependent, stable, focused. Depend on God alone.

MESSAGE: Announce boldly and show lovingly: "God is near! You are loved!"

MOTIVATION: Find your deepest joy not in visible triumphs, but in the unshakeable truth: *Your and my name is written in heaven.* We belong to God forever. This is the pure joy of Christianity.

So, let's go. Pray for the harvest. Live simply, depend deeply. Share the nearness and love of God with your family, your colleagues, your neighbours -not just by words, but the example of your life. And whatever happens, rejoice – not in fleeting success, but in your eternal salvation.

The Lord of the harvest is with us. Amen.

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