

Jesus DIY  
Week 4

Luke 10: 1-11

This is an interesting passage. All of a sudden, Jesus' ministry team has blown out to 72. Notice it said 72 others. This means the disciples got a rest from ministry.

Look at:

Note: Luke 9:1-6- Jesus sends them out the disciples.

And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

He goes from 12 ministers to 72 note after the feeding of the 5000.  
(Did Jesus develop a team of ministers from the feeding of the 5,000)  
Did Jesus act of serving people act as church growth???  
Did Jesus act of feeding people act as church growth???

1. Going places Jesus goes. V1 Jesus stands them Ahead of him After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

A question: was it 72 others excluding the disciples, or other than the disciples. Did they get a break for a few days?

But the big thing is here is that Jesus was going to go to those places. It was kind of like pre advertising.

Is what we do for Jesus, a pre advertisement for what the Holy Spirit can do in people's lives?

2. Pray – ask the Lord for workers v2

And he said to them, “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.

The Interesting thing here is that it is about sending out workers, not praying in new people. Notice that, it is about being sent, not about praying in new families or more people to make our church grow, it is about sending workers.

Too often we pray for the easy way out.

Pray for more Baptist's to come to town or pray such and such a family or person comes here to church. This passage says go, pray for workers to work with (no don't pray for people to do your job!)

Notice too, Jesus is saying it's harvest time. Not sowing, or fertilising, but harvest. Workers to bring in results.

I get the feeling, Jesus wants our church to grow, not by sending other Christians to us but by a true spiritual growth of conversions to a Him.

I get the feeling God is saying “You are all in this together, you are the resources, you can do what I have called you too so don't ask for someone else to do your job, you do it.

What are our prayers?

3. Appointed by God v3 – called to do Jesus stuff.

Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

being sent to hostile environment not cruisey ministry. Notice that: it's gonna be hard work, it's going to cause issues, some people will react against it. Yep.

Too often we think that all is good when there is no conflict or issue.

A lecturer of mine, a guy from the states called Rev Dr Terry Walling said “ If everything is easy in your church your probably not a threat to Satan.” I get the feeling this church stresses Satan out. Every time this church does some good stuff for the kingdom, Satan sends along an issue. We need to recognise it for what it is. Spiritual warfare. I think the reason we have on going internal issues in this church is because satan wants us distracted. He is worried we can do stuff, work with Jesus to change the lives and eternities of people.

How do we react to issues?

#### 4. Travel light but with purpose v4

Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.

Deliberately don't be encumbered by finances. Satan wants us to feel under resourced, Satan wants us to feel inadequate. Let me tell you something, there is more money in the accounts of this church now than at any AGM meeting time in the time I've been here. As I looked at the accounts I thought wow, God has blessed us hugely through this really tough time. This has technically been the hardest time but God has blessed through each of you to place us in a strong position. We are not under resourced, we are resourced by God, we don't need more, we don't need to over prepare – we just need to be obedient.

Aside from that, Community ministry is not about money, it is about time. Actually, most ministry is about time as the major resource.

What are the resources you bring to this church at this time?

#### 5. Peace orientation v5-6

Whatever house you enter, first say, Peace be to this house!' 6. And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.

This is interesting. Say peace and then carry it through. This will mean not being provocative. Not arguing politics, not

defending your thought processes. Being a peace giver and a peace maker. Finding a way to do ministerial and missional peace.

How do I contribute to the peace of this church and it's people?

6. Stay in place v7 commitment to ministry in location. And **remain** in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

What's this saying? Hang in there with what we are doing AND who we are doing it with. Hang in there with the people we are ministering to. Research from the different sources indicate that it is expected in most churches that 20-25% of church attendees will take the opportunity to change congregations during the covid Period. They may change of actual church and denomination or it may mean change of what time they come to a worship service. Alongside that between 8-12% will not return to church. There is a possibility of between 28 and 37% numerical loss in any church. Not just ours, any church.

Now there is a big thing here. Some will do that. What is our Response to be? Bless them. But we, who are here to take in this passage this morning, are told this morning to hang in there. Stay. Be part of the lives of this bunch of people. When covid is all over, we start from a new position. Life will not be and is not the same.

As an aside, since I have been pastor here a number of people have come to me and informed me they were leaving the church. For numerous reasons: theology, musical style, a different opportunity, a wife or relationship, kids friendships, lack of critical mass in their age group. What is my response? Bless them. Pray for them. (I still pray for each person who has left each week) Why?

My assumption is God is working in their lives and has need of them somewhere else. My thought process has always been:

Be where God wants you to be and where He wants to use you. I can't argue with God directing people somewhere else. So I bless them.

But we, this morning Re being told to stay.

Where will I be at the end of this Covid time?

Where does God want me?

7. Receive and accept hospitality v7 be a guest / Share life

And remain in the same house, **eating and drinking what they provide**, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.

There is a couple of things here. We usually assume it is us giving the hospitality to others. That is our ministry. Here it is saying accept their hospitality.

It is about being part of their lives. Not about putting on a program so they come to church but being part of their lives so they are part of yours, you minister to them and it is a natural extension of your life to be involved in church so they will eventually, as your friends, be part of church in some way. Accept what part of their lives they offer you. Don't demand more, just accept.

I read recently that Christians aren't good at being friends because people they befriend are targets for church growth. The more I thought about it, the more I realised that is true. Maybe, we need to be friends and really good friends before targeting people. I know we don't think that way, we think that everybody needs to know Jesus and right now. Maybe, just maybe, we need to be really good friends, stay with them in whatever life has for us and then share.  
In what way am I involved in people's lives?

8. The job – heal the sick tell about Jesus v9

Heal the sick in it and say to them, **The kingdom of God has come near to you.'**

Our job is pretty much the same. But what we do in the modern church is that we assume our programs are achieving

this. Some are some aren't. I read the other day an interesting quote:

"How can we expect our programs to see results for Jesus if our programs don't have any Jesus content".

Wo, big statement. We need to bring Jesus into the conversation.

It's not about programmes, in fact it is organic. The principle that we have here is not systematic or programmable but lifestyle. The programmes are the tools of the telling, the programmes are avenues to tell of Jesus.

Are we telling the Jesus message to people in what we do?

So where have we come today?

I think the big thing for us today is recognising ourselves as a resource for the telling of the Jesus message.