

Jesus instructed his disciples to find a person of peace, or a home where your blessing of peace rests. I think that means, when Jesus leads you to a person who has questions and is interested in listening, stay with them. Don't waste your time trying to twist someone's arm who isn't ready to listen. Jesus beach-head is the person open to receive, the person seeking, the person willing to ask questions and hear from Jesus.

And finally Jesus said; "If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now'." (Luke 10:8,9) Notice I fit in with the people Jesus leads me to, they're not the ones to take the initiative, I am. I accept their

hospitality, and don't try and change them to be like me. I act graciously, and then that amazing phrase; 'heal the sick'.

Who thinks Jesus is serious here? Heal the sick!

Can Jesus heal the sick? Of course he can. And he has empowered you to talk with him on these people's behalf. Jesus has promised to listen to you; not to be dictated to by you, but definitely to listen and answer. Why not bring the needs, hurts, frustrations, guilt, regrets of these people to Jesus? Why not be audacious enough, if you feel led by Jesus to pray for healing? But always be open to Jesus lead, for his goal is faith. What good is

there in perfect health and ending up in hell?

Faith in Jesus is the doorway into the Kingdom of God, which is right on those people's door step because you are there as Jesus' ambassador. The Kingdom of God is there at that very moment; invite them to grab it, to place their faith in Jesus, and begin living life in all his fullness.

7 July 2019  
**BLANK-BLANK-BLANK?**  
Luke 10:1-11,16-20



Today I want to touch on what we call mission. Jesus at the end of Matthew called you and I to; "go and make disciples" (Matt. 28:16-20). Jesus has invited us to join him on the mission that Father sent him on. I like these words from John's account of Jesus' life; "As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you" (John 20:19-23).

Today we have a blank page, a clean slate. We're not going to simply repeat what was done in the past. The call to join Jesus in his mission is still the same, but how will we do it today? What will it look like today, for you, where Jesus has placed you?

I think Jesus call to join him in Father's mission has ended up being; how do we get people regularly to a Sunday morning meeting. Not

that there is anything wrong with a regular Sunday meeting. It's just that Jesus call was to go and make disciples; that's people who follow him, and grow to become like him. Jesus is their guild for life, the one who shapes their identity, who gives them purpose and direction for life. Jesus is the one who shapes their values, the way they daily live life.

So, as I mentioned last week, the place I'd begin is with our relationship with Jesus. If we don't have a relationship with Jesus based on his grace, his love, his person, we've totally missed the point.

Jesus has created a relationship of love and affection, lived out in a conversational atmosphere, through his death and resurrection. That is the

reality we get to live in and share with Jesus; for he has also sent the Spirit to be with us right now, in everything we do. What a wonderful intimate, personal relationship of love and affection we get to live with God, and to share with other people.

Today we start with a clean slate; we're not going to simply repeat what has been done in the past, but today we're asking Jesus what he wants us to do. How he wants us to go with him. What's his ideas for making disciples of the people we meet.

Here's a few thoughts from how Jesus sent out his disciples as we heard from Luke's account of Jesus life.

The unspoken bit is that these people had been sharing life with Jesus; listening to him,

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

watching him, talking with him. So I want to be listening to him, watching him, talking with Jesus, otherwise I don't think I have anything to share. I'm sharing Jesus, the guy I know, the person I live with.

The next thing I notice is that Jesus sends out a group of his disciples, and in pairs. So Jesus is after a team event. It's just not pairs, there were seventy other people doing the same thing. They are part of a bigger group. I need to be part of a bigger group of disciples. I need to work as a team; or at least that's how Jesus directed these disciples.

And they went to the places Jesus planned to visit. The people you talk with are the places Jesus plans to visit. His goal is a personal relationship of love and affection, lived out in a conversational atmosphere, were we get to live out his

supernatural love, naturally.

It struck me that the disciples were going before Jesus, getting things ready for him to be there.

They weren't out making 'club members' or getting people to attend a 'club meeting'. Jesus is planning to

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**Jesus said; 'The harvest is great...'**

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visit, so they are preparing the way.

Jesus said; "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields" (Luke 10:2).

I remember being encouraged to pray at two minutes to ten each day to remind myself of this text. At the time I thought it was a good idea, I just didn't do it. Part of my clean slate is to ask for forgiveness,

and then learn from the past.

Maybe why I didn't remember was because I went it alone. Jesus is definitely asking us to pray, and to pray with great hope. To pray with expectancy. Did you notice the harvest is what? The harvest is great.

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I don't know about you, but if I was a farmer and I saw a 'great' crop, I'd be jumping for joy. I've noticed all farmers

are jumping for joy when they get the header out and reap the crop. What a great time. A time to celebrate and enjoy.

As I reflected on this I felt Jesus saying to me to have the same attitude. The harvest is 'great', you beauty!!! I'm smiling, I'm expectant, the harvest is 'great'. So let's make time to pray; pray for harvest workers, pray for Jesus to lead you to a new person to share him with. Pray to Jesus for the wisdom and love to

know what to say and when. Pray; grab those thoughts and go for it. Jesus is planning on meeting that person and he wants to do it as friends not strangers. It's his passion, so why wouldn't he be invested in those conversations.

So the second thought I'm writing on my blank page is to pray. If you missed it, thought one was to keep my relationship with Jesus vibrant; he's the guy I'm out to introduce. He's on the way to meet that person, for he wants to be living a person to person relationship of love and affection in a conversational atmosphere.

Then Jesus says something challenging; "I'm sending you out as lambs among wolves" (Luke 10:3) What thoughts and images come to your mind when you hear that? As a lamb I'm glad I've got a 'Good Shepherd' to look after me. As a lamb I'm not going to take on a wolf

in my own strength. Then all I'll become its lunch! As a lamb I'm not going to be tempted to imitate a wolf, in Jesus I'll stay true to my identity in him. What do you think Jesus is saying to us today, as we seek to go and make disciples here in Murray Bridge?

Then Jesus says;

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**Let's ask Jesus to lead us; grab that first thought and go for it.**

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"Don't take any money with you, nor a traveller's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road" (Luke 10:4). Often my clean start gets blotted and stalled because of all the thing I think I need before I do anything. Has that ever happened to you?

I just need to understand this a bit better before I act; and then you never act. I just need a plan, some money, I just need these extra things and

then I'll act. Have you ever noticed that with this kind of thinking, you never have quite enough, so nothing happens?

I think Jesus wants us to be focused on him and his lead. After all, how much money do you need to talk with another person? Jesus is inviting you to rely on

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him. Rely on Jesus to lead you to that other person. Rely on Jesus to give you the words to say. Rely on Jesus to step out and do

what he places on your heart; talk to who he places on your heart or brings across your path. I do find it so easy to get distracted, thinking I need more, and then for me, nothing happens.

Let's ask Jesus to lead us; grab that first thought and go for it. Have you noticed how what you need gets provided along the way, and from areas and people you'd never expected or thought of?