



Further reflection and discussion material: Luke 10:1-25

Mission on the Road

Luke 10:1-25

Luke 10:1-25 is the beginning of following Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. Our sermon series in February looked at three sections of Luke 9, helping us to understand who Jesus is, who we are as Jesus' disciples, how much we are loved by God and how our response to the love and grace we have been shown should be to prioritise following Jesus.

It is important that we read Luke 10 in the context of Luke 9, otherwise there is a risk that we could see what we do on the road as somehow earning or securing our salvation. Luke 9 and 10 make it clear that this is not the case.

As we step in to talk about mission in churches there are a few responses:

- *'Great! About time! Let's go, whose coming?'*
- *'I don't know any non-Christians'*
- *'I'm too busy'*
- *'I support and pray for missionaries, but I'm not a missionary'*
- *'I invite friends to things, but it's someone else job to tell them about Jesus'*
- *'yes, ok, but I don't know what to say or do'*
- *'I just can't do that, what if...'*

Which response is most common for you? Is there another response that you have?

What is behind that response? Fear? Gifting? Lack of skills? Lack of relationships? Identify what you think leads you to respond this way.

Read Luke 10:1-25

This is the story of Jesus sending out the 72, not all whom would have been 'gifted' evangelists, but all of whom understood that it was their privilege as a disciple to share the news of Jesus with others. Below are 7 characteristics, many of which come from Darrell Bock's commentary on Luke, which can be helpful as we thinking about the posture and actions we take as we step into God's mission. It is also helpful to keep in mind Matthew 28:16-20 and the call to make disciples 'in our going'. Mission is both a specific activity we engage in at certain times, but as disciples of Jesus it is also a lifestyle, a way we go about life 'in our going'.

1. Go together (v1)

Jesus sends the disciples out in pairs. This was in part so that they would be witness for each other, but also a pattern of the New Testament that people went out on mission in pairs or groups.

- *What do you think is the benefit of going together in mission?*
- *How does going together address some of our fears or cautions towards stepping out on mission together?*

2. Make workers, not just converts (v2)

They disciples are called to pray that God might send more workers into the harvest field. They are not only going out to collect a harvest, but to build up other workers who could go out. They are called to make disciples, not just converts.

- *How can we see this happening in the New Testament?*
- *How does it change our approach to mission?*

3. Trust in God's provision (v3-7)

God promises to provide for them as they go, through people who are open and receptive of their message. Not only is he providing for their physical needs, but also with people for them to invest with and share the Kingdom message with. God is already at work in the lives of people, long before we get there.

- *At the last supper in Luke 22:35-38 Jesus ask the disciples where they lacking anything? What is he trying to teach them? How does his instructions following this question change how they go about mission?*
- *Do you trust that God is at work before you get there, opening the hearts of others to hear his message? What does this look like? How can you tell when the Spirit is at work?*

4. Know rejection may come (v3-4)

Jesus sends the disciples out as Lambs among wolves. It is an image of persecution and rejection.

- *How would Psalm 23 have shaped how the disciples saw this image? How does it shape how we see it today?*
- *What does it look like for us to trust in the Lord as our Shepherd today?*

5. Go with God's authority (v5-6, 9, 17-19)

The disciples are sent out with God's authority to bring blessing, to remove blessing, to heal the sick and cast out disease. They are called to stay where they see God at work, and people open to their message and to leave when people are not receptive. They are called to bring healing. It is clear that they are able to do this in v17-19.

- *How do you respond to the knowledge that you are sent in God's authority? Is that a new thought? How do you live this out in everyday life?*

6. Know His message (v9-11)

Whether or not people respond there is one clear message the disciples are called to give, 'The Kingdom of God has come near'. Proclaiming the Kingdom of God is about God's rule being demonstrated and proclaimed in this world.

- *How do you understanding the message of the Kingdom of God?*
- *How has God's rule shaped and transformed your life?*

7. Know you are privileged (v20-24)

In line with Luke 9, the reminder here is to understand and rejoice in who we are in Christ, and the security that it provides. Jesus demonstrates that they are known, that God has revealed to these things to them, and it is a blessing to participate with God in His mission in the world?

- *Are we secure in our identity in Christ? Is this what we give thanks for? Does this dictate how we live or do other things impact our life and choices?*
- *Do we count it as a blessing to see God at work? How does this link with some of the other responses to mission we looked at in the beginning of this study?*

What is one thing you need to add/change to the way you step out on mission?

Who can you keep you accountable for this?

**Please email any stories of mission, or encouragement you have gained, or questions on this to
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