

Palmetto Baptist Church – July 5, 2020

Rethinking How You View Missions – Luke 10:1-12

Why Plant/Revitalize Churches?¹

1. There are about 200 million non-churched people in America, making America one of the four largest “unchurched” nations in the world.
2. Each year about 3,500 churches close their doors permanently.
3. Today, of the approximately 350,000 churches in America, four out of five are either plateaued or declining.
4. One American denomination recently found that 80% of its converts came to Christ in churches less than two years old (whether planted or revitalized)
5. 95% of Christians never lead one person to Christ

I. Partner with another believer. (Luke 10:1)

- *70 or 72? A textual variant... perhaps Jesus intended once again to connect the NT with the OT by causing us to reflect on the 70 elders appointed by Moses in the wilderness...*

- A. To receive encouragement. (“...2 are better than one” – Ecc. 4:9-12)
- B. To offer accountability. (“...iron sharpens iron” – Prov. 27:17; “a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” – Prov. 25:11)
- C. To provide credibility. (“...in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses” – Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16; 2 Cor. 13:1)

II. See the world through the eyes of Jesus. (Luke 10:2; Matt 9:37-38)

Illustration of those who are successful getting deals on Shark Tank

Illustration on finding the connection between two sets of numbers:

6 & 3	SIX & 3 (letters)
12 & 6	TWELVE & 6 (letters)
14 & 8	FOURTEEN & 8 (letters)
16 & ?	SIXTEEN & 7 (letters)

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/i-will-build-my-church--2>

- A. **See the opportunity.** (The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.)
- B. **Care about people.** – Matthew 10 (Jesus commissions the 12)... before the commission, Jesus reminds the 12 disciples of this same principle approximately 2 months before commissioning the 70)
 - This repeated commission is motivated by COMPASSION for the lost! (Matt. 9:35-38)
 - The sheep were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
 - The harvest of judgment is coming. (Joel 3:13; Matthew 13:36-43; Rev. 14:14-20)

Joel 3:13

¹³Put in the sickle,
 for the harvest is ripe.
 Go in, tread,
 for the winepress is full.
 The vats overflow,
 for their evil is great.

Matthew 13:36-43

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Revelation 14:14-20

¹⁴Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." ¹⁶So he who sat on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth was reaped.

¹⁷Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." ¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it

into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia.^[a]

Application: Hell is real!

- The harvest of souls is waiting. (John 4:31-38)

John 4:31-38

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

- The laborers are few!

C. Be part of the solution.

1. **PRAY** – Beg THE LORD OF THE HARVEST (Jesus WHO IS BOTH THE JUDGE AND THE SOLUTION) to send out more laborers.
2. **GO** – Personally participate in fulfilling the Great Commission. (NOTE THE URGENCY BEHIND HIS COMMAND!)

Change your motto from "I am staying but am willing to go" to "I am going but am willing to stay."

What if Jesus looked down from heaven and cried over the sin of man but never came down to offer Himself to pay the price of man's sins?

I. Partner with another believer. (Luke 10:1)

II. See the world through the eyes of Jesus. (Luke 10:2; Matt 9:37-38)

III. Adjust your perspective on missions. (Luke 10:3-12)

A. Missions is challenging.

1. You will be surrounded by predators who desire to devour you. (3)
[Sheep among wolves... sheep are not known for their ability to defend themselves 😊]
2. You will need physical provision to meet your daily needs. (4)

- You will need money to accomplish your mission.
 - You will have limited ability to accumulate items to help you prepare for the future (no knapsack; no sandals).
 - You will need to remain focused on accomplishing the mission at hand. Greet no one on the road...no time for detours [see 2 Kings 4:29: Gehazi, Elisha's servant, was commanded to go directly to the Shunammite Widow's son to lay his staff on him]]
3. You will not always be warmly received. (10-12)
- When rejection occurs, remember that this was never exclusively about YOU. The people are rejecting King Jesus.
 - He will judge the people based on how they respond to the truth delivered by you.
 - Your responsibility is to share the truth.
- B. Missions is rewarding.
1. God is at work in the hearts of people before you arrive on the scene. (5-6) **"PERSON OF PEACE"**
 2. God will provide all of your needs according to His riches and glory in Christ Jesus. (7-9)
 - a. Your need for shelter. (7)
 - b. Your need for food. (8)
 - c. Your need for connections in the community. (9; Matt. 10:8)

Apply the Text:

- **Pray daily for more laborers for the harvest.**
 - Investigate the number of unreached people groups in the world.
 - Participate in a prayer walk around your neighborhood.
 - Look for open doors to build redemptive relationships.
 - Identify the *Person of Peace* and building a relationship with him, invite him to study the Bible with you.*
- **Trust God to meet you needs.**
 - Meditate on the truth found in Matthew 6:25-34
- **Look for ways to connect with the people around you.**
 - Look for open doors to build redemptive relationships.

- Identify the *Person of Peace* and building a relationship with him, invite him to study the Bible with you.*
- **Seek out a ministry partner. (Luke 10:1 [72]; Matt. 10:1-4 [groups of 2])**
 - Start with those closest to you (spouse, family member, church member, friend...)
 - Ask the person if he is interested and available to partner with you.
 - Meet once a week for prayer and discussion of strategy.

*Extra Helps from *Contagious Disciple Making* by David L. Watson & Paul Watson (pages 152-154):

Discovery Group Agenda:

- 1- What are you thankful for this week? (Prayer/worship)
- 2- What has stressed you out this week? What do you need for things to be better? (Intercession)
- 3- What are the needs of people in our community? (Ministry)
- 4- How can we help each other with the needs we expressed? (Ministry) {if first study...skip to #9}
- 5- What did we talk about last week? (Accountability)
- 6- Did you change anything in your life as a result of last week's story? (Accountability/Obedience)
- 7- Did you get a chance to share the story with [the person identified]? (Accountability/Worship)
- 8- We identified several needs last week and planned to meet this needs. How did it go? (Accountability/Worship)
- 9- Let's see what the Bible teaches us this week. Read this week's passage. (Scripture)
- 10- Ask for someone to retell the passage in his own words, as though he were telling a friend who wasn't there. (Accountability/Evangelism)
- 11- Do you agree with the retelling? Is there something he added or left out that he shouldn't have?" Reread if the group is missing the MAIN COMPONENTS of the passage. If something was added ask: Where did you find that in this passage? Reread if necessary. (Priesthood of Believers/Group Correction)
- 12- What does this passage teach us about God? (Discovery/Scripture/Priesthood of Believers)
- 13- What does this passage teach us about humanity? (Discovery/Scripture/Priesthood of Believers)
- 14- If we believe this passage is from God, how must we change? (Discovery/Scripture/Obedience/Priesthood of Believers)

15- Who are you going to share this passage with before we meet again? (Evangelism/Replication)

16- When do you want to meet again?

Suggested Passages: (Using the Creation – Fall – Redemption Narrative... [page 235])

- Genesis 1:1-25 – The Creation Story: God Created the World
- Genesis 2:4-24 – The Creation Story: The Creation of Man
- Genesis 3:1-13 – The Fall: The First Sin and Judgment
- Genesis 3:14-24 – The Fall: Judgment of a Sinful World
- Genesis 6:1-9:17 – The Fall: The Flood
- Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-6 – Redemption: God’s Promise to Abraham
- Genesis 22:1-19 – Redemption: Abraham offers Isaac as a Sacrifice
- Exodus 12:1-28 – Redemption: The Promise of Passover
- Exodus 20:1-21 – Redemption: The Ten Commandments
- Leviticus 4:1-35 – Redemption: The Sacrificial System
- Isaiah 53 – Redemption: Isaiah Foreshadows the Coming Promise
- Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20 – Redemption: The Birth of Jesus
- Matthew 3; John 1:29-34 – Redemption: Jesus is Baptized
- Matthew 4:1-11 – Redemption: The Temptation of Christ
- John 3:1-21 – Redemption: Jesus and Nicodemus
- John 4:1-26, 39-42 – Redemption: Jesus and the Woman at the Well
- Luke 5:17-26 – Redemption: Jesus Forgives and Heals
- Mark 4:35-41 – Redemption: Jesus Calms the Storm
- Mark 5:1-20 – Redemption: Jesus Casts Out Evil Spirits
- John 11:1-44 – Redemption: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead
- Matthew 26:26-30 – Redemption: The First Lord’s Supper
- John 18:1-19:16 – Redemption: Jesus Is Betrayed and Condemned
- Luke 23:32-56 – Redemption: Jesus Is Crucified
- Luke 24:1-35 – Redemption: Jesus Conquers Death
- Luke 24:36-53 – Redemption: Jesus Appears and Ascends
- John 3:1-21 – Redemption: We Have a Choice