

Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

Discipleship #4 'It's all about Mission' Luke 10: 1-24 w/c 31st January by Kathy Mathew

In this passage Jesus broadens His mission beyond that of the 12 disciples. He sends out 70 (72 in some versions) and this reminds us that Jesus had a larger group of followers than the 12 apostles. He sent them ahead to visit all the towns He himself planned to visit, apparently not just Jewish towns but also in other areas of Palestine. He sent them out two by two. These disciples were not unique in their qualifications. They were not that educated or more capable of higher status than other followers. What prepared them for this mission was that they had been equipped with Jesus power and a vision to reach out to all people. If we dedicate our skills to God's kingdom He will give us His power and a clear vision of what He wants us to do.

Q.1 How confident are you at sharing your faith with others? How important is this? What are the dangers and what are the rewards? What are some of the reasons that we might delay or avoid this?

In sending out these disciples, Jesus states that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.(v.2) Using this analogy Jesus was expressing the increased urgency He felt about his work. He could see the greatness of human need and is warning that without labourers the opportunity to meet this need may be wasted.

This is still true today! Christian service has no unemployment. God has work enough for everyone. In this verse Jesus commands the disciples not only to heal and preach but to pray. The importance of prayer was brought home to me when I learned about the work of the Street Pastors in our local town. Not only do they have a presence on the streets but a group of people who are praying for them at headquarters which is often a church. So Jesus commanded them to pray, the work before them was great and would not be accomplished without prayer.

Q.2 What and where is the 'harvest' for Christians today? Think of the 'harvest' in context of your life and church. What is the 'harvest' that you can see waiting to be reaped? Can you list the 'harvest' around you in your neighbourhood and in your local community of Highcliffe and Bransgore? Can you share this with others and in so doing consider how it can be 'gathered in'.

Jesus is sending out these disciples with news of the Kingdom of God. He warns the disciples that He is sending them out like lambs among wolves. He is speaking of rejection. He is warning His disciples that the work He is asking them to do will make them vulnerable and they must rely on God's strength. This can apply to us today. It's so easy to protect ourselves from rejection by not speaking out loud enough about our faith and our Lord. Sometimes not speaking out at all. Jesus talks of the hospitality that the disciples might receive. They should pronounce the benediction on the households which accept them willingly and if a household rejects them to declare God's judgement on the whole town warning them the Kingdom of God had come close

Q.3 What or whom are these inhospitable people ultimately rejecting? In your own life have you ever been rejected? Have you been rejected , ridiculed or avoided because you are a Christian? Why do people respond differently to the gospel? What might be an indication that God is working on a person's heart? Pray that you might be sensitive to those who are open to hearing the gospel.

Q.4 What does the Kingdom of God mean in verses 9 and 11? What is the Kingdom of God?

When the 70 return, they have some great news to tell. They are excited—and so is Jesus – that they have power over demons and they had participated in something great. Jesus reminds them of something more wonderful, the promise that they have no end of peace with God and a future home in heaven.

Q.5 In what situations is Jesus calling you to bear witness to the nearness of the Kingdom of God? In the Christian life, what is it that you rejoice about?