

“ADJ - Advancing the Kingdom Part 5” (10-30-22)

Review: Kingdom Defined (My rule God’s Rule) / Kingdom Participation & Power (Obey) / Neighbors / Nations

Today: Advancing the Kingdom by Sharing our Faith

Main Text: Luke 10 (also the parallel passages of: Matthew 10, Mark 6, Luke 9)

1) People of Prayer

Luke 10:1-2 (ESV)

(1) 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. (2) 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.

Note: We are co-laboring with Christ (notice: he is sending them where he himself is going!). The need is great. The workers are few - this hasn’t changed. Jesus’ solution - pray!

Jesus practiced what he preached . . .

Luke 6:12-13 (ESV)

(12) In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles

Note: We do pray for the lost, but we start by praying for disciples to go . . .

Matthew 9:35-36 (ESV)

(35) And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (36) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Note: Jesus is working and He sees the great need for shepherds.

Matthew 9:37-10:1 (ESV)

(37) Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; (38) therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (10:1) And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

Note: He sends out the disciples & encourages them to now do what he has done - pray for laborers (because the need is beyond their scope & ability), and he gives them power

Jesus sees the need so He prays, goes, and sends - then the 12 - then the 72 (always praying for more!)

Our Call: We will reach Knoxville for the Kingdom based entirely on our faithfulness to this - pray, go, send!

If this church grows and we have a real impact in Knoxville it will not be because the preaching & music are good, it will be because we have prayed for our city and we each are a part of the solution to Jesus’ prayer for our city!

Now 2 key things: Jesus saw the need for shepherds & he saw the need for power . . .

2) People of Peace

Luke 10:3-8 (ESV)

(3) Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. (4) Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. (5) 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. (7) 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. (8) Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

Note: Go your way!

- vs. 3: it will be difficult
- vs. 4: learn to be reliant on Jesus' provision (again - prayer)
- vs. 5-8: Go to the people of peace (who is open to you - stay there, take the opportunity in front of you)

People of peace - we don't have to force our way in!

- So many are intimidated to share because we are picturing an argument with an atheist
- Jesus didn't send us to win arguments - he sent us to announce the Kingdom and invite people in!
- Who is open to you - think neighbors & nations - invest there!

Tips to stay the course with people as ambassadors . . . (2 Corinthians 4:1-7)

2 Corinthians 4:1 (ESV)

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart.

Note: Don't lose heart! So easy to get discouraged when we don't see results, but hang in there!

2 Corinthians 4:2 (ESV)

But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

Note: Don't compromise - the messenger or the message!

Dave Buehring (ADJ pg. 258) - "Our witness is the total package of who we are all the time - our values, character, attitudes, how we relate to people, and our actions"

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (ESV)

(3) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. (4) In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Note: Pray for the veil to lift - what unique obstacles are in the way - as we engage with people we learn how to pray and can receive direction on what to say, but ultimately Jesus needs to bring light into darkness!

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (ESV)

(5) For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (7) But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Note: Simply proclaim Jesus, and rely upon his power, not mine!

3) People of Power & Purpose

Luke 10:9 (ESV)

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

Note: As we pray & stay, then we can share what we have - Jesus!

Jesus call to go in power with purpose - He did it, and he called the 12, and then the 72 to this as well . . .

Matthew 9:35 (ESV)

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

Luke 9:1-2 (ESV)

(1) And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, (2) and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.

- We have been empowered (spiritual gifts series in November - the presence & power of the H.S. in us)
- Maybe we aren't seeing power, because we don't need it (instead relying on our own strength not His!)

Luke 10:17-20 (ESV)

(17) The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"
 (18) And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (19) Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.
 (20) Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Note: Rely on Him for Power and remember the real Purpose - He will give what we need when we need it!

2 Keys: Rely (in our weakness He is strong) & Rejoice (recognize victories & worship)

Conclusion: We are all called to Advance the Kingdom. Therefore, let's be People of Prayer, reach out to People of Peace, and believe for Power to fulfill the Purpose - God's Kingdom has come near!