

Calling and Sending #3

Luke 10

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We are in a series about Calling and Sending as we move towards our Belonging Day on Sept 6. So far, we have talked about seeing, knowing, and listening to the people around us as keys to being called and sent.



Today, I want to begin in a logical place which is Rogue I from Star Wars. At the end dramatic conclusion, Darth Vader terrifies and destroys and people are running away from him carrying some kind of message on a card.

The people give the message to Leah and the guy behind her asks, "What message have they given us?" and she answers, "HOPE." There the movie ends with a message of hope to conquer the Death Star:

We also are sent with HOPE.

Luke 10:1-12

v.1-2 – After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Clearly from this passage, we are sent. As a missionary kid, I heard this passage all the time. You are to go out into the world and tell people about Jesus, which is true and good. But notice that the disciples in this passage are not sent OUT but are sent IN to their own people, the Judeans, the ones who claimed they are the kingdom of God.



The Village Logo: We are sent **IN** and **OUT**: notice the arrows go **OUT** but they start from **IN**. There is work to do. God gives his people work in the garden: there is a calling to work alongside Jesus. Jesus invites us to join with him in the work of the kingdom.

Previously, I actually had shame when I heard this: you have plenty of work to do? It's overwhelming.

Dependence

v.3-4 – Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

But HOW are we sent?

1. In **dependence** on Jesus. “Lambs among wolves” implies fear: are we helpless lambs to be torn apart? But Jesus is the good Shepherd whose flock knows him. It isn’t safe to go, but we have a good shepherd we are dependent on.
2. Don’t take **extra stuff**: We want to take extra money and clothes and supplies that we think we need. But Jesus calls us to be dependent on him. We don’t need money, food or extra things.
3. Don’t **greet anyone** on the way. *What does it mean?* As I was pondering this, an example of me taking a walk in the midwest where invariably you meet someone and there is small talk full of politeness for several minutes, but when this is repeated with everyone you meet, you don’t move very far. Could it be that we aren’t called to obligate the people around us to take care of us? Could it be that our message is one of urgency?

Likewise, when the Shunamite woman dies in 2 Kings 4:29, Elisha tells his servant Gehazi the same reminder, “Don’t greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer.” Don’t get distracted from the message.

Where do you look to be taken care of and secure and looking for life? Where in your life is Jesus inviting you to let go and find your security in him?

Peace

v.5-6 – “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

We are sent as messengers of peace. Do you say “Peace on this house” when you walk into peoples’ homes that you go to? There is something in the blessing of peace.

This peace doesn’t mean the absence or avoidance or creation of conflict: It’s being willing to walk into conflict and be at peace: **to be still without turmoil**. I love the lake in Michigan when it’s all quiet before the wind picks

up and the day (and turmoil) gets started. Jesus gives a peace that the world cannot give. There is no fear in the place of peace.



There is another moment in the movie where the battle is happening all around and they are losing, yet they must get across a field to push a button. A blind man says he is one with The Force up until he pushes the button. There is a moment of peace as he walks across the raging battlefield in peace. I can also walk with the Spirit in me as I walk into places of conflict.

Who is the person of peace in your life: in the midst of conflict, you know they will walk in peace. I invite you to tell them!

Hospitality

v.7-8 – Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you.

We are also sent as people of hospitality. We are called to be people of stability: not bouncing around from place to place but stable and consistent. This is rare in our world today. More and more people are leaving their hometowns. We are called to live in mutual care, to give and receive hospitality. We are to eat and drink together, to care for one another.

Furthermore, we are also called to be the people in the homes who are giving hospitality.

We are to eat what is offered to us. I have a rule (that I’m not sure where it came from) that I will eat what is offered to me. It’s gotten me in trouble a couple of times: I’m not a fan of mangos or avocados but once a host offered me mango avocado salsa. Another time, I went on a mission trip to Mexico and stayed with a woman who made us 5 teenage boys breakfast: she made us chilaquiles. That was all we had because that was all she had. It was rich to enjoy this breakfast with her.

Where is it hard to be still and content in your relationships (not avoiding conflict)? Who is it hard to be generous with? Who is it hard to receive from?

The Message

v.9 – Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

Here we depart slightly: The kingdom is not near to us, it is here and now! Jesus has gone to the cross and died for our sins and has been resurrected: we live in him in his full glory.

In Matthew 11, John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask if Jesus was the one or should they expect someone else? Jesus told them to report back the miracles they have seen.

This is the message we carry as we walk in peace and hospitality and dependence: we can freely offer to the people around us.

The Warning

v.10-12 – But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

However there is a warning for the people who claim to be God’s people: the Judeans who were in the family and then would reject the Messiah. I want to encourage you in this by letting you know something that you probably already know: When you go out and carry the message as we talked about above, **YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL**. I cannot control how you respond to this sermon or the meal I offer you or when I confront you.

"Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1) We are called to obey and to trust the Lord is working, not the people around us.

Here is a summary of our calling and mission: this is how we proclaim God's love for us to those around us.

Luke 10:1-12

We are sent, dependent on Jesus, to bless one another with peace and to give and receive hospitality. In this way we proclaim the kingdom of God and make space for the Holy Spirit to work.