

**Sermon Notes of  
Guest Speaker Ted Johnston's Sermon on May 6, 2018:**

**"On Mission with Jesus"**

**[In today's sermon, Guest Speaker Ted Johnston shows from Luke 10 that we are called to be faithful to Jesus' commission to go and help non-Christians become His followers and disciples.]**

Notes

Introduction:

**Luke 10:1, 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. 2) 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. 3) Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4) Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.**

**5) "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6) If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7) Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.**

**8) "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9) Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10) But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11) '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.'**

- As we go through these verses in detail, we'll see that there is an application for all at New Hope in the generic sense as Christians but also in a specific sense as a local congregation.
- The Holy Spirit, having opened our eyes to see Jesus, and our hearts to embrace Him, leads and equips us as believers to participate and share in what Jesus is doing to fulfill the Father's mission for the sake of the world.
- This is so precious and so challenging.
  
- Our calling is thus to share in what Jesus is doing – to participate in his Great Commission, His disciple-making mission, motivated by a Great Commandment to have love for God and for all people.
  
- Our sharing with Christ is both personal and corporate – we participate as the church scattered – over our back yard fences – and as the church gathered – reaching out together to a particular group of people located in proximity to where we gather for ministry.
  
- Today, the culture in our country has radically shifted – it is now being described as a post-Christian world.

- It could quickly become an anti-Christian world.
- Both of these conditions get the juices flowing in the Holy Spirit, so to speak.
- Karl Barth said that the first step to Jesus for many people is a step into atheism.

### Outreach:

- But how do we do that outreach to a particular community together? Where do we start? How do we proceed?
- Thankfully, Scripture gives us helpful direction by sharing, in Luke 10, the account of how Jesus sent his disciples into the harvest field.

**Luke 10:1, 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. 2) 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.**

- Jesus formed the 72 into ministry teams and gave them particular assignments.
- What’s important to note is that Jesus sends teams with specific assignments.
- Who will form your team to be sent out in obedience to the Lord’s command?
- Where do you sense the Lord sending you?
- Start by identifying a few key people with the giftedness, passion and availability to go.
- But to where?
- But to what specific place – what locale – what group of people – is our congregation sent?
- The Holy Spirit will show us.
- Jesus was quite targeted in sending out the 72:

### **3) Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.**

- This is a general assignment - go to the world (the “wolves”) – for us that means the “unchurched” world – non-Christians. Those who don’t yet know Jesus.
- And it’s challenging work.

### **4) Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.**

- Jesus was telling them that they didn’t have to worry about having enough resources, “a purse or a bag” to do what He’s asking them to do, but rather Jesus wanted them to be solely dependent on Him.
- It was the custom of that era to spend a lot of time with people you meet on the road when you go from village to village.
- So, Jesus wasn’t telling them to be unfriendly but was telling them not to get sidetracked and bogged-down. Just keep going so they could fulfill their assignment.

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

- Saying “peace” to others was a common greeting in that society.

- Jesus showed them how to take steps to identify those who were responsive – open to the ministry Jesus’ sent them to share.
- When someone responded in an open and positive way, then they were to go forward with the gospel message.

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

- Now some of the villages Jesus sent his disciples were not kosher.
- This would have challenged their cultural dos and don’ts.
- Now, in the first century culture, “eating” was fellowshiping and building relationships.
- Jesus wanted His disciples to get on the people’s turf, look for points of reception and then build on relationships as they shared the good news about Jesus and the kingdom.
- Now, in doing this, they were not to compromise their loyalty to Christ.
- In other words, not to commit acts of sin, so as to connect with their guests.

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

- This is taking relationships to the next level.
- A demonstration of Jesus’ power through acts of mercy – in this case of healing.
- And after that, then give a verbal proclamation of the gospel – the Good News that the Kingdom is now present in and through Jesus.
- When you are a channel of healing from God through prayer, you then need to explain about God’s mercy and power.
- The goal of our evangelistic outreach to a particular focus community is to bring Jesus near – to demonstrate his love, grace and power in tangible acts of grace and through spoken words of testimony.
- Now one of the challenges of New Hope, based on the survey results, is to find this place where we will outreach together.
- And once the place is found, the next challenge is how we will go about doing it.

**10) But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11) ‘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.’**

- This act of wiping the dust off their feet was a Jewish cultural thing.
- But what Jesus was trying to get across was that if people don’t respond, then don’t get discouraged, don’t get stuck in the mud, but rather move on.
- And, in some cases, that might be difficult to do, because it might be your home town, or neighborhood.
- Jesus, through the Spirit, is the One who leads people to receptivity of His message – while there are many He has prepared, but not everyone will respond immediately.

TCAT Survey:

- The results show that you have a high sense of gratitude for the congregation.

- The survey was to gauge how our congregation felt about the seven elements of a transformational church.
- Across the board, the impression our congregation has is that we are doing well in those areas, but there is some concern about the element of mission.
- We need to be doing more of it, but we're not sure about where to collectively do it as a congregation.
- We do realize that the making of disciples is fundamentally a relational endeavor.
- It a journey with people over a period of time helping them to know Jesus.
- And ultimately we are to help the new disciples to eventually become disciple makers, themselves.
- Jesus started this – He called people to become His disciples and then He ultimately equipped them to become disciple makers of others.
- While some say the “church needs a mission”, the truth is that the mission, already given to us by Jesus, needs a church to fulfill it.
- The church was formed by the Holy Spirit for the sake of the mission.

#### From maintenance:

- It is so easy for Christians to settle into what we might call a “maintenance mode” – simply taking care of the existing members and focusing their efforts and resources on maintaining what they have.
- To do so is not, in itself, evil. But it is not fully responsive to Jesus' call to mission.
- We need to partner fully with Jesus to make not-yet-believers His disciples.

#### Into mission:

- We are called to be faithful to Jesus' commission to go and help non-Christians become disciples of Jesus.
- Whether or not all respond positively to our efforts is a matter that is in the Lord's hands.
- But we are to keep going despite opposition and some setbacks.
- So, New Hope needs to move from mere maintenance into mission.
- The rewards for doing so are very great, as the 72 disciples experienced.

**17) The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” 18) He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19) I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20) However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”**

- There is great joy in participating actively in what Jesus is doing, because He has all power and authority both on earth and in the heavenly realm, physically and spiritually.
- We can be confident in Jesus.
- And, indeed, we can rest fully in Him, knowing that our names, because of Him, are written in the book of life.
- Jesus shifts what the disciples have done from a focus of power that He has given them to a focus of identity, as to who they really are.

- As we enter more fully into mission with our Lord, we share with Him the joy He experiences in our involvement.
- There is great joy in actively sharing in what Jesus is doing.

**21) At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.**

**22 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”**

- It gives great joy to Jesus to reveal the Father to people.
- What a blessing it is to be part of the Father’s work through Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit leads us to participate actively in that work – in that Great Commission to make disciples.
- And what a privilege that participation is.
- Ted Johnston’s role isn’t to tell New Hope what to do and where to go.
- He’s here to help us think it through and to assist us in making some key decisions leading to actions that need to be taken.
- These things need to be done – not out of panic, not out of fear.
- In essence, we should want to see the good things that Lord has given us passed on to others.

**23) Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24) For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”**

- This is the word of the Lord, thanks be to God!
- We are not alone in our search to become more mission oriented.
- The Derby, Kansas church’s message will resonate with everyone here.

Video of the re-launch of the Derby, Kansas church:

- Comments were made by various members.
- They were an elderly dying church, who needed to begin engaging their community in sharing the Gospel.
- At first, they did various activities for the community in the parks like cookouts, etc., but it didn’t make an impact.
- They decided to move from where they were to a smaller, more friendlier community – Derby.
- There, they went door to door talking with people and inviting them to come to church with them.
- And they are now beginning to grow.
- And people in the community are learning that God loves them so much.

Concluding comments:

- There is the guarantee that the Lord will always be with us.
- And He essentially tells us that He has prepared others who will respond and He wants us to go with Him to find them and then bring them to Christ.
- Jesus wants us to be a disciple making church.
- There will be steps that we, at New Hope, will have to take in the months ahead for the sharing of Jesus with others.

Communion:

- Now we come to the Lord's Table confident in Christ, resting in Him.
- Now, resting in Christ is not about inactivity but rather a subtleness of heart.
- It's about coming to Christ with no fear, no shame, no guilt, no doubt.
- Now as people came to the table to receive the elements of Communion, Ted read a passage from John 15 where that night in the upper room Jesus was giving His disciples final instructions before he would be betrayed and then taken to the cross.

**John 15:1, "1 am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2) He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3) You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4) Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**

**5) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6) If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7) If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8) This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

**9) "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10) If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12) My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13) Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14) You are my friends if you do what I command. 15) I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**

**16) You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17) This is my command: Love each other.**

- And when Jesus tells us to "love each other" that love doesn't stop at the walls of the church.
- It includes not only us as Christians, but all of God's children.
- So, we are challenged to know how to connect with those God is working with and who do not yet know Him, even though the Holy Spirit is at work in their hearts.

- They need someone to be with them to help them see what the Holy Spirit is doing in their lives.
- So we come to the Lord's Table where He now meets us in a profound and even mysterious way and shares with us His own life as a glorified human now in heaven preparing a place for us.
- So let us join together with Christ by partaking His body and blood through the elements of bread and wine.

## **Prayer**