

**Introduction:**

- We are diving into the fields white unto harvest once again today!
- Quotes:
  - You think *"Evangelism is hard...watching people you love go to hell is harder."* Author unknown.
  - *"I freed a thousand slaves. I could've freed two thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."* Harriet Tubman (c. 1822 -1913) was an African-American abolitionist, humanitarian, and during the American Civil War, a Union spy.  
This is why we must share our faith. Most people like the lost coin of Luke 15 are lost and do not even know it. Jesus' answer is, send people out to tell!
- Read Luke 9:1-9 (ESV) "And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, **"Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them."** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere. Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him."
- Herod asks the question of the ages: **"WHO IS THIS?"**
- I believe that the Word is starting to create awareness in us! It may be small, but more people are starting to see others as people they can share their faith with.
- I want to 'once again' call us into the harvest fields. Jesus did this in Luke 9:1-9. He sent them. They went. And Herod, like many, heard and responded.

**I. He Sent.** Jesus does three things in Luke 9:1-2. It is here that the disciples will start to bloom. You will start to bloom as you step and share the Word with others!

A. He called them out... **"And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,"** (Luke 9:1, ESV). For the past few weeks God has been calling us out too!

1. He called - Gr. Kaleo - "It may always be rendered "to call," but often has the special nuance of divine calling or vocation." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume (p. 394). W.B. Eerdmans.
2. Two things are happening when we are called out by the Lord:
  - a) One, He called them out and ... Luke 5:10 (**from now on you will be catching men.**) the weight of catching men now falls on them to go and liberate people from darkness. They are being called out from among those who are followers of Jesus.
  - b) Two, He called them together (Ekklesia). Those that are called out (*kaleo*)

become the ekklesia of which Christ is the head!

B. He empowered them...

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."* (Matthew 10:1, ESV) Luke 4:6 the people are amazed at Jesus power. Now he gives this power to them! It is here that they will now begin to actually partner with Jesus and the apostolic mission that we will see in Acts! They get to have what He carries! So do we!
2. Power - dynamis - 'to be able' Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus with Power! Power is connected to the Word which is activated by faith!
3. Authority - exousia. "To have the ability, the right or the permission to act."<sup>NICNT Luke.</sup> Authority comes out of relationship. God gives Jesus authority. Jesus gives His disciples authority!

C. He sent them...they now have the authority to go, and to act!

1. ...Out to proclaim - the message of the Kingdom.
  - a) There is a place for you in the Kingdom of God. You are lost if you are not in that place. Again, many people do not realize they are lost.
  - b) God is here! Come join Him!
2. ...Out to heal. This is part of our mission. I remind us, He never sent them out to pray for the sick. He sent them out to heal the sick. If they are not getting healed it is on us. That is what causes me to go back to God and say, "What has to change in me?"
3. ...Out with this instruction:
  - a) Take no extra sandal, stay where you are welcome, and if you are not received shake the defilement off of you. - You, fully rely/trust me.
4. Jesus' expectation: When you are sent you are expected to return and report in.
  - a) ie. Three servants were sent out to invest and they all reported back.
  - b) ie. Paul and Barnabas were sent out and after each journey they reported back of what God had done.

## II. They Went

A. They obeyed

1. They departed - they simply left Jesus to go to the villages.
2. They went through the villages.
  - a) You get the feeling that they went 'through' the villages like 'salt through grits!' To go through!
  - b) ie. Like water through a babies diaper.
  - c) They were everywhere for a certain period of time.

B. They carried out...they did what Jesus instructed them to do. How are we doing. Are

we doing what He has instructed us to do?

1. Preaching the Gospel
  2. Healing the sick.
- C. *"So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them."* (Mark 6:12-13, ESV)
- D. When we do that word will get out. le. Janeice's testimony.

### III. Herod Heard

- A. Herod heard about all that was happening! Word had gone from the villages to the palace!
1. The 'salt' was at work!
  2. The 'light' was shining!
  3. The called-out ones were doing what Jesus had instructed them to do. Do you see what was happening? They just started doing what Jesus had suggested.
  4. Watch what happens when we do what we are called and sent to do.
- B. Four Responses of Herod
1. Herod heard! Excitement was building in the palace over things happening in the streets!
  2. Herod is searching. Herod is actually trying to find answers, himself. Note all the questions he is asking! He is perplexed: is it John the Baptist? Elijah? One of the prophets that has risen? He is now, somewhat, considering eternity!
  3. Herod asks, "Who is this?"...of who I hear such things. Luke 9:9
    - a) We love witnessing into questions! Proclaim into questions!
    - b) Impact is being made by the Salt and Light community.
  4. He sought to see Him/Jesus. Luke 9:9
- C. This is what we need to expect as we witness about the Lord Jesus to people.

### Conclusion:

- *"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."* (Luke 10:2, ESV)
- Do we really understand that we are sent to the fields white unto harvest?
- Do we really understand that He gave us the Holy Spirit so that we would have power to be witnesses?
- Do we really understand that we, like Jesus, have been anointed with the Holy Spirit and power.