

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "PURSUING FAITHFULNESS IN KINGDOM MISSION"

For individual study or group discussion

Last week we learned that the cost of discipleship calls us to forsake all in order to follow Christ (Luke 9:57-62). In Luke 10:1-16, as Jesus is on his way from Galilee to Jerusalem, he commissions seventy-two of his followers to preach the Gospel throughout the region, for the "harvest is plentiful" and ripe for gathering. Jesus knowingly sends them out "as lambs in the midst of wolves." Nonetheless, he calls them to *pursue faithfulness in Kingdom mission*, despite the risk of rejection. Prayer is the first order of business for Kingdom mission. *Jesus requires his followers to fervently pray for the vast Gospel opportunities in the world* (vv. 1-2). If you recall from our previous studies in the *Gospel of Luke*, the author frequently shows Jesus removing himself from the crowds to prayerfully prepare for the preaching of the good news of the Kingdom of God. (See Luke 3:21; 4:42-44; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28-29, 11:1; and 22:32, 40-45.) Followers who seek to be faithful to the Kingdom mission must mirror their Messiah as he directs them to "pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest" (v. 2).

- In verses 1-2, what is the purpose of the mission (cf. Romans 10:13-17; John 4:31-38)?
- According to Acts 13:2-4, what was a necessary prerequisite to the commissioning of Barnabas and Saul?
- From our earlier studies in Isaiah 62, recall how the prophet gave his readers a glimpse of the coming Kingdom of God and the role of the church. According to Isaiah, what method is of vital importance to the church's mission as it seeks to make the nations Christ's disciples (vv. 1-7)?

Another vital part of Kingdom mission is utter dependence on God. *Jesus requires his followers to fully trust God to supply all their needs* (vv. 3-4). It is no easy task which Christ calls us to do. Previously, in Luke 9:57-62, Jesus warned would-be followers that the cross which every disciple must bear would resemble his. It's an "all-or-nothing" demand for dependence upon him. In his daily prayer blog, PCA pastor and author Scotty Smith describes this dependence as a costly, messy work: "We're supposed to be getting dirt under our nails, as we do the hard and heart work of evangelism and missions. You [Christ] send us out like lambs among wolves. It's a costly, messy, much-resisted work you've given us to do. But it's worth all the sacrifice, tears and conflict. For you came to us as the Lamb among sinners and the Lamb for sinners. The price you paid "to have and to hold" your Bride makes our most agonizing work a kingdom joy."<sup>1</sup>

- Describe the dangers of Kingdom mission (Matthew 10:22; John 15:20; 16:2).
- Refer back to Luke 9:57-60. How does Jesus convey the importance of dependency and trust in him for kingdom mission (10:4)?

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul states that Jesus came to preach "peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near" (2:17). If we are to exemplify Christ in our Kingdom mission, *he requires us to boldly proclaim the Kingdom, all the while expecting mixed responses*. From the start of Jesus' ministry in Luke 4, Jesus and his band of twelve disciples traveled from town to town preaching peace along with the good news of the Kingdom of God, because now is "the year of the Lord's favor" (v. 19). In Luke 10:5-11, Jesus sends his followers out with the same message, "the kingdom of God has come near to you," even while knowing some of the hearers would reject the good news.

- Read 2 Corinthians 2:15-16. How does Paul explain the responses of people to the gospel?

And finally in Luke 10:12-16, *Jesus requires his followers to soberly recognize the eternal consequences of rejecting Jesus*. The seventy-two were to offer the citizens of Israel's most obstinate cities a last chance to turn from their inevitable ruin and embrace God's peace. (cf. Isaiah 55:6; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2)

- Read John 15:18-27. Will everyone receive Christ's message of salvation? How should we respond when people reject the Gospel?

DATE: September 18, 2022

SPEAKER: Frank/Chad

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 10:1-16

## Family Dinner Table

Paige Benton Brown is a conference speaker and teacher at Westend Community Church (PCA) in Nashville, TN. In her most recent Wednesday morning Bible study video series on the book of *1 Kings*, she defines judgment as God giving a sinner exactly what they want. Judgment is God withholding what the sinner has already rejected: Him. Sin is always its own judgment, she says. In the case of the Israelites during the time of Elijah, God essentially says, "You want Baal? You've got Baal." For a time, God gives the rebellious Israelites a taste of his justice, but eventually he pursues them because of his covenant faithfulness.<sup>2</sup>

- While the day of God's vengeance (Isaiah 61:1-2) will come when Christ returns, now is the time to embody costly, life-spending discipleship. In what ways can you carry out the mission of Christ to a world that needs to hear the "good news" of the Gospel of grace and peace?
- Read Luke 10:1-4 and John 4:35-38. What are the dangers and rewards of sharing the gospel? List reasons why you delay or avoid telling others the good news. Pray for opportunities to share Christ with others.
- As a family, discuss how Christians should respond when people reject the Gospel. Pray that you will have the right heart attitude whenever you are rejected for following Jesus.

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

**Amani ya Juu**, denominational partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

**April and Daniel**, supported missionary partners who serve in a sensitive region.

<sup>1</sup> Smith, Scotty. *A Prayer About a Full Harvest and Few Workers*. October 16, 2010. TGC. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/scotty-smith/a-prayer-about-a-full-harvest-and-few-workers/> September 13, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Brown, P. B. 2022, September 71 Wednesday Morning Bible Study with Paige Brown livestream | Westend Community Church. YouTube. Retrieved September 13, 2022, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPhDqXvSR44>