

Introduction

Can you remember the first time you ever spoke to somebody about Jesus?

What did it feel like?

How did they receive it?

Today's passage talks about God's mission field. We can make the mistake of thinking that it is just for special people 'missionaries'. Who have a special calling from God. This is not true. Jesus calls and equips all his followers to tell the Good News

This passage tells us all Jesus' followers are missionaries. Jesus's method of teaching and equipping them: tell, show, send

Things we can learn:

The harvest is plentiful – we actually often think about it the other way. We don't expect people

- to want to hear
- to be ready to respond
- to listen to us

I have found over that past few months how please people are when I tell them that I am praying for them. People are open and aware that they need God's help especially in these challenging times

Jesus' perspective was that there were more people ready to hear than to tell. Do you think it is still the same today? Why/ why not

Was it to do with the immanence of the Kingdom – some special power there with Jesus – or should we expect it to be the same today.

We are to be lambs among wolves

The world is tough but we are not to heavily defend ourselves.
Just go gently and humbly

Don't take provision.

Trust that God will provide

Expect to be welcomed and supported by those you go to
visit

Go bringing God's Blessing

Go in peace and wanting to bless people

Not thinking we know better than them but humbly offering
them what we have and know (Jesus)

Develop relationship

- Stay with the people who welcome you
- Get to know them
- share their lives with them

- Listen to them – people are much more likely to receive
what we have to say if they feel they have been listened
to first - Tell about Mary and Alpha

When we are welcomed stay with it, Deal with what is there

Heal those who are ill – how do we do that? Do we believe we
have power to heal as well?

Tell them “The Kingdom of God has come near to you” preach
the Gospel to them, simply, as we understand it. tell of our
own encounters with Jesus and what he has done for us

Don't waste time if there is no welcome

We need to discern where God is working. The devil loves us to
waste time where hearts are hardened and people will not
listen

In Luke's Gospel it tells us:

Matthew 9:35-10:8

¹⁷ *When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!"*

¹⁸ *"Yes," he told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰ But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven."*

What are the challenges for us here, today?

We are confined to home and socially distanced

But that doesn't mean we don't have a message to share. We can tell people how God has cared for us during this time and what his love has meant to us

We can show God's love to others in the way we listen to them, support them and care for them

We can tell them of God's love and especially show his love to them

We can pray for them