

Series: Gospel Of Luke

Sunday, February 8. Read our daily sermon reflections on GCC's app (under Devotionals) or at gardiner.church/devotions

1. THE M : HARVESTING FOR THE KINGDOM

(Luke 10:2,3,5, 10-12; John 4:35; John 15:18-19;
see also Colossians 1:21-22; Romans 5:1; Isaiah 52:7)

- Jesus sends His disciples because the harvest is overflowing and ready. The tragedy isn't that people are unreachable; it's that there aren't enough workers. The mission: proclaim peace to a spiritually hungry world. "Peace to this house" (v. 5) offers the shalom that comes when we repent and believe, receiving peace with God through Christ (Romans 5:1). But Jesus is honest: "I am sending you out like lambs among wolves" (v. 3). Not everyone will welcome the message. When rejected, move on (v. 11). Our responsibility is faithful proclamation, the results belong to God.
- The harvest fields are your workplace, neighborhood, family. God calls us to cross streets, not just oceans. Where has God placed you as a "harvest field" ready for the gospel?

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2. THE M : THREE-FOLD EQUIPPING

(Luke 10:4-7,9,17,19; see also 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Matthew 28:18-20;
Genesis 3:15)

- God equips us in three essential ways: 1. He provides for our needs (vv.4-7); 2. He gives us spiritual gifts (v. 9) – God uniquely equips each believer for their harvest field; 3. He empowers us with His authority (v. 17) – this delegated authority from Christ enables our mission.
- Discover and use your unique spiritual gifts, trusting God's provision and authority. What gifts has God given you for your harvest field?

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Turn page over for #3

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3. THE M : THREE-FOLD JOY

(Luke 10:2,17,20; see also Matthew 25:21)

- Jesus gives us three reasons to rejoice: 1. The joy of saved lives—longing to see others come to faith and receive eternal life (v. 2); 2. The joy of fruitful ministry—the disciples "returned with joy" (v. 17) seeing people saved, healed, and delivered. Celebrate when God's kingdom advances! 3. The joy of eternal life—our names written in heaven. In this verse, Jesus shows that while ministry success is wonderful, it cannot be our joy's foundation. Results fluctuate. If your joy depends on ministry success, you'll burn out, or become frustrated or proud. But if your joy rests on your secure relationship with God, with your name being in the Lamb's book of life, that's unchanging! Look forward to one day hearing from God, *"Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your Lord"* (Matthew 25:21).
- Is your joy dependent on ministry success, or rooted in your relationship with God? Celebrate fruitful ministry, but anchor your deepest joy in your salvation.

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Application For This Week: God sends us into the harvest with His peace, equips us with provision, spiritual gifts, and authority, and sustains us with three-fold joy: seeing others saved, fruitful ministry, and ultimately our names written in heaven. This week, identify one "harvest field" where God has placed you. Pray for opportunities, trust His equipping, and remember that your greatest treasure is having your name written in heaven.

Prayer: "Father, send us into Your harvest fields. Equip us with provision, gifts, and authority. Help us find joy in seeing others saved, in fruitful ministry, and most of all in belonging to You forever. Make us faithful harvesters. Give us courage as lambs among wolves, knowing the Good Shepherd watches over us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Verses To Meditate On This Week: *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. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."* - Luke 10:2-3

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