

LORD OF THE HARVEST // Luke 10:1-16

Morning message from the series, The Gospel of Luke

To live a Christian life is to live a life on mission. We should say, "I want my life to count for something in God's kingdom." What motivations do we find in this text for living a life on mission, a life that includes a passport and a "yes" on the table?

THREE MOTIVATIONS FOR LIFE ON MISSION

1. The need is great: there still remain millions of people marching towards death who have never heard the name of Jesus.

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. (v.2)

God uses means--he uses people to reach people. Currently there is more money available for missions than missionaries. How do we remedy this problem? We pray.

2. The work is hard: engaging people with the gospel is a spiritual enterprise beyond human strength.

Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." (v.9)

This passage is not only a calling to dependency, but also a calling to simplicity (v.4)--we must beware of extra baggage and distractions. We are also reminded that while the work is dangerous and difficult, it is also relational (v.5), and ultimately the reason we are forming these relationships is in order to share the gospel (v.9).

3. The time is short: there is soon coming a day when the world will give an account for their earthly life and eternal soul.

"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me." (v.16)

The comparison of Old Testament and New Testament cities indicates that, just as there are degrees of reward in heaven, so there are degrees of suffering in hell. Those who had the opportunity to know about Jesus but chose to reject him will suffer more. This fact should move Christians--we are called to stand in the gaps for those who need the gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are we willing to be the answer to the prayer for missionaries?
2. How can we cultivate these motivations in our own lives?
3. What extra baggage and distractions are holding us back from a willingness to answer a call to missions?