

Have you ever seen a field bursting with ripe produce, ready for harvest, yet with no one to gather it?

- That feeling of overwhelming abundance mixed with urgent need – that's the picture Jesus paints for us in Matthew 9.
- He looked at the crowds, "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). He didn't just see problems; He saw *potential*. He saw a **plentiful harvest**, souls ready to be brought into His Kingdom.

His response is profound.

- He doesn't immediately command His disciples to go. First, He says, "Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38). He invites them, and us, into partnership through prayer.
- And then, what happens?

As Matthew 10 opens, Jesus calls His disciples, gives them authority, and **sends them out**.

- Friends, Jesus still looks at our world, sees a plentiful harvest, and invites us to pray. And then, He sends *us* out.
- Today, we're going to explore what it means for every one of us to be **living sent** – to see the need, to pray for laborers, and then to step into the fields ourselves.

**Warren Wiersbe said**, "The **Work** of salvation could only be accomplished by Jesus Christ, and He did it alone. But the **witness** of this salvation could only be accomplished by His people...those who have trusted Him and been salvation.

**Isaiah 6:8 – Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"**

### **Title of the Message this Morning – Live Sent**

#### **Jesus instructs His Disciples to Live out the Mission**

- In the beginning of Chapter 10, There are instructions for immediate disciples (12, He called Apostles – Sent Ones)
- Gave them power and authority to complete a specific task –
- This was a specific command to a specific group – Not all of this applies to us
- Jesus said go only to the lost sheep of Israel – "The Kingdom of God is at hand.
- We know he later tells them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
- Jesus gives them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.

#### **Descriptive, Not necessarily Prescriptive**

- The first few verses are more description and prescriptive – It's describing Jesus sending out the disciples
- This might help – Matthew 10:1-15 are instructions to former disciples (past disciples); the rest of the chapter is to future disciples and faithful disciples

Matthew 10:16-42 Present instructions to both disciples living now in this present time, and those who will come after us.

Several Insights to these Instruction for Faithful Disciples; Possible Future

**To Live Sent, we must know that**

### **Persecution Predicted – Mt. 10:16-26**

**Matthew 10:16-20** - "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. <sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

<sup>21</sup> "Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. <sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

The Enemies of God will Hate you - Could be any of the following...

- Religious Persecution (10:16-17): They will hand you over to courts and beaten in synagogues.
- Political Persecution (10:18): They will be called before governors and kings; this, however, will provide an opportunity to share Jesus... "a testimony to them / Gentiles"
- Family Persecution (10:21): Family members will betray each other.
- General Persecution (10:22-23): Everyone will hate them because of their allegiance to Christ.

When facing Persecution...

### **Be Cautiously Wise & Morally Blameless – v. 16**

**Matthew 10:16-20** - "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

In response to the opposition they would face, the disciples were to be shrewd as well as innocent. In many ancient cultures, the serpents represented qualities of wisdom, caution, and cunning. The followers of Jesus were to be equally alert and wise. The word innocent speaks of purity and integrity. Christ followers are to live with pure motives and cautious alertness.

### **I never thought persecution would come to our shore - USA**

- We have seen a growing government restriction, hostility toward faith-based organizations, and conflicts between non-discrimination policies and religious freedom. Key areas of concern include restrictions on religious expression in public spaces, employers forcing compliance with mandates violating faith, and rising threats to pro-life institutions.
- Just two weeks ago, we saw protestor storm a worship service of a Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minnesota.

- Violence against churches and houses of worship in the United States, including in smaller, often vulnerable, communities, has risen significantly, with over 400 incidents documented in 2023. These acts, ranging from vandalism and arson to violent, targeted shootings, are frequently motivated by personal grievances, mental illness, or, in some cases, ideological hatred.

### **This is why we have a security team – Pastor Hat**

- This is something we have heard since we got serious about security
- Next Gen Values – We want the Kids to know Jesus – We want the kids to have fun, but if cannot keep them safe, that is a moot point.
- I sat with Pastor at a conference Thursday and Friday, all of them about the same size as our church, all with the desire to keep their children in a secure location.
- Stickers can be inconvenient – Having to walk a certain way may be inconvenient.
- I would rather err on the side of caution.

### **If they hated Jesus; they'll hate you**

**Matthew 10:24** - <sup>24</sup> "A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *will they call* those of his household! <sup>26</sup> Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

### **Follow the logic here:**

- If Jesus was persecuted, and He is our teacher and master, then do we think that we're above Him, that we won't endure what He has endured? Peter tells us that we are to follow in Jesus' steps in the path of suffering (1 Pet 2:21).
- If you proclaim the name of Christ, people will betray you, the world will hate you, and you will be persecuted, and it's all because Jesus Himself was betrayed, hated, and persecuted. (Platt, *Exalting Jesus*:

Mt. KL 2606)

### **To live sent is to know that**

**Persecution Predicted – Mt. 10:16-26 - *The enemies of God will hate you,***

**Illumination Promised – Mt. 10:27-31 - *but the spirit of God will help you. Notice Mt. 10:27...***

**Matthew 10:27** - <sup>27</sup> "Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. <sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. <sup>30</sup> But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

**Matthew 10:19-20** But **when** they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; <sup>20</sup> **for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.**

## **The Holy Spirit will give you the right words to Say – What a Promise.**

- I cannot tell you how many people over the years have admitted that one of the primary reasons they do not share their faith is they are afraid they will not have the right words.
- You may ask, "What if they ask a question that I don't know?"
- **Matthew 10:19-20** But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

## **Do Not Fear**

- **See with an eternal perspective** - <sup>26</sup> Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. God will expose sin and injustice
- **Speak with Holy Boldness** – what Jesus says in the dark boldly proclaim – v. 27
- **Sacrifice with reckless abandonment** – Don't fear the one who can kill the body, God is ultimate judge. Just like God takes watches the sparrows, He's got you!
- Three times in these verse Jesus says "do not fear"

## **To Live sent is Not only is Persecution Predicted; Illumination Promised; but ...**

### **Proclamation Commanded – Mt. 10:32-33**

**Matthew 10:32** - <sup>32</sup> "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

## **To Confess means to affirm, to agree, or to identify with.**

- When we follow Jesus, we don't sit back in silence; we make it known to others that we belong to him.
- After Salvation, we identify with Jesus in Water Baptism – Proclaim our Faith in Christ and Publicly identifying with Him!
- Let me ask you, "Do the people you work with, or go to school with... do they know you are a follower of Jesus? Does your family know you love Jesus? Do your neighbors know?"
- What an incredible thought that one day all those who *publicly* identify with Jesus will stand before the Father in heave and Jesus will *publicly*, before the Father, identify with them.
- Yes, Father, I know Him!
- Who have you invited lately? Who have you prayed for lately to come to Christ?

## **Not only is Persecution Predicted; Illumination Promised; Proclamation Commanded, but ...**

### **Devotion Demanded – Mt. 10:34-39**

**Matthew 10:34** - <sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; <sup>36</sup> and 'a man's enemies *will be* those of his *own* household.' <sup>37</sup> He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>38</sup> And he who does not take his

cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

To live sent is to love Jesus starts with loving Jesus Supremely

- Love for Jesus should be superior than love for parent, spouse, children...love Jesus more than any other relationship.

Live sent is to die to self

**Matthew 10:38-39** - And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Pick up this instrument of death – This would have been the first Jesus said this / but not the last

- In Jesus' time, carrying one's cross meant a condemned person was on a one-way march to execution – a public display of utter surrender to a painful death.
- Therefore, "taking up your cross" means:
  - **Death to Self:** A conscious decision to put aside our own desires, comforts, ambitions, and even our right to self-preservation.
  - **Absolute Allegiance:** Placing Christ and His kingdom as the supreme priority, above family, reputation, safety, and life itself.
  - **Willingness to Suffer:** Embracing the likelihood of hardship, rejection, or persecution that comes from faithfully following Jesus.
  - **Daily Obedience:** A continuous, intentional choice to follow Jesus' path, no matter the cost.

### Compensation Guaranteed – Mt. 10:40-42

**Matthew 10:40-42** - <sup>40</sup> "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. <sup>41</sup> He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. <sup>42</sup> And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

### You may remember the story of the Rich Young Ruler

- He comes to Jesus thinking he has done everything he needs to do to inherit eternal life.
- Jesus says, Prove it! Go sell everything, give it to the poor and follow me.
- Many of us know the story, He walks away sorrowful because he had great possession
- It's not about possession of your life, it's about the posture of your heart – He love his stuff more than Jesus

**Mark 10:28-32** - Seeing this, Peter says – **"We have left everything – Please tell me it's worth it)**

<sup>29</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, <sup>30</sup> who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.

### Conclusion & Action – Circle Back to Opening Illustration

- End of Matthew 9, the Bible tells us that Jesus was moved with Compassion – he was not only emotionally moved, but physically affected
- He looked at the crowds, "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd" (Mt 9:36).
- He didn't just see problems; He saw *potential*. He saw a **plentiful harvest**, souls ready to be brought into His Kingdom.

In light of God's coming judgment, Jesus knew the desperate condition of those to whom He ministered.

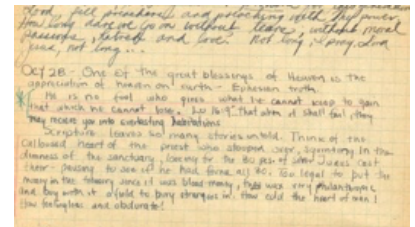
- These were people who were separated from God and who, if nothing changed, would one day stand before God in their sin and be cast into eternal darkness. This is why Jesus had such compassion on them. How much more so should this be true in our day? We live in a world of approximately seven billion people, with most liberal estimates labeling about one-third of this seven billion "Christians." That leaves more than 4.5 billion people without Christ—that's more than 4.5 billion people on a road that leads to an eternal hell. This is the condition of the lost. (Platt, *Exalting Jesus*: Mt. KL 2514)

## Pray Fervently

- For those who don't know Jesus
- Pray fervently and consistently for FRANS
- Set aside daily time – Set a reminder, alarm, pray for the missions and ministry of TFBC
- Our mission is to equip you to relentlessly pursue God's design
- Pray that we will fulfil the Vision of our church: To Bring Hope and Renewal to every person and every place, in Thorsby and Beyond

## Give Sacrificially

- Of our Time, Give of our Talent, Give of our Treasure
- We are praying for a 25% increase in the 5G Life –
- Your giving Funds Ministries and Fues the Mission – Right now, on your behalf, thousands of missionaries across the County and around the world are sharing the gospel, because you give.
- There is no greater investment than investing in the Mission of Jesus!
- Cameron, encouraged us last week – Give Consistently, Cheerfully, and Sacrificially
- Jim Elliot – and 4 other missionaries were desperate to reach the Auca Indian Tribe in Ecuador – all 5 missionaries were killed Jan. 8, 1956 (70 years ago)
- Oct. 28, 1955 "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose" - [Link](#)



## Go Willingly

- Isaiah's Vision – Saw the Lord, on His Throne, High and Lifted up.
- God asks, Who can we send, and who will go for us,
- Isaiah answered. "Here am I, Lord, Send Me"