

# From Surviving to Thriving

*A 5-day walk through Luke 10*

*Introduction — read before Monday. This week we slow down and walk one principle at a time, Monday through Friday. Each day: a passage, a short reflection, a written prayer, and one honest question. The goal by Friday is not to have studied a chapter. The goal is to have moved from surviving to thriving — one principle at a time.*

**M O N D A Y**

## **Be on Mission**

*Read: Luke 10:1–3*

**Luke 10:2** — *“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.”*

Jesus sent out seventy-two disciples ahead of him into every town he was about to enter. Seventy-two is not random — it matches the number of nations in Genesis 10. Jesus was signaling the global scope of the mission. The harvest is the world.

And then he said the line that has shaped every faithful Christian since: “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” Notice what's missing from his diagnosis. He doesn't say the harvest is small. He doesn't say the world isn't ready. He says the harvest is huge. What's missing is laborers.

There are coworkers at your job who do not know Jesus. There are neighbors on your street who do not know Jesus. There are people in your own family who walk through life with no anchor for their souls. The harvest is plentiful.

And Jesus tells us how to start: pray. Pray for laborers. And then — here is the part we miss — the people who pray that prayer almost always become

the answer to it. You cannot keep praying “Lord, send laborers” while refusing to be one yourself.

You do not have a mission. You are a mission. Your job, your neighborhood, your family table, your gym, your kids' school; those are not just your life. They are your assignment.

### **Pray**

*Lord of the harvest, open my eyes to see the people you have placed around me as a mission field, not as an inconvenience. Make me a laborer, not just a pray-er for laborers. Send me. Use me. And when I am afraid, remind me that the Shepherd of the lambs is also the Lord of the wolves. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### **Question**

*Who has the Lord placed in front of me that I have been treating as background instead of as a mission field?*

T U E S D A Y

## **Share a Simple Message**

*Read: Luke 10:4-9*

**Luke 10:9** — *“Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”*

Jesus sent the seventy-two with one sentence. Nine words. “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”

They didn't have the New Testament. They hadn't been to seminary. They had walked with Jesus for a few months. And he sent them out with a sentence.

One of the great lies that has paralyzed Christian witness in our day is the idea that we need to know more before we can speak. We think we need apologetics memorized, every objection answered, every difficult question pre-rehearsed. And so, we wait. And wait. And we never open our mouths.

Your message does not need to be sophisticated. It needs to be true. “God loves you. You are a sinner. Jesus died and rose for sinners. Trust him.” That is the gospel. You can say it in ninety seconds.

And notice the opening word Jesus gives them: “Peace.” Not a critique. Not a sales pitch. Not a debate. Peace. The first thing your unsaved friend should feel from you is the peace of someone who knows the gospel is true.

If they receive your peace, stay. If they reject it, your peace returns to you. You lose nothing by offering it.

### ***Pray***

*Father, forgive me for staying silent because I think I need to know more. Loosen my tongue with the simple, beautiful, true gospel. Make me a person of peace. Give me one conversation this week where I can name Jesus out loud. In his name, amen.*

### ***Question***

*If a coworker asked me right now to explain the gospel in 60 seconds, could I? What sentence would I start with?*

W E D N E S D A Y

## Show Concern and Compassion

Read: Luke 10:25-37

**Luke 10:33** — *“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.”*

A man is beaten and left for dead. A priest passes by. A Levite passes by. They probably felt sorry for him. They probably prayed for him as they walked by on the other side.

But they didn't stop.

Compassion that doesn't stop is not compassion. It is sentiment.

The Samaritan stopped. He bound up the wounds. He used his own oil and wine. He put the wounded man on his own animal which means the Samaritan walked. He paid the innkeeper out of his own pocket. He promised to pay more if more was needed.

Compassion cost him time. Compassion cost him money. Compassion cost him comfort. Compassion cost him risk because robbers were still on that road.

Most of our “compassion” fails right there. We feel for people. We pray for people. We even post about people. But we don't pay anything. We don't actually inconvenience our schedule, our budget, our weekend. And so, the wounded keep lying in the road.

A thriving Christian is a person whose compassion has feet. And a wallet. And a calendar. Whose compassion shows up. Whose compassion costs.

And remember, the Samaritan was the Jews' enemy. Jesus deliberately picked the most despised possible hero. Your compassion is not measured

by how much you help people who are easy to help. It is measured by whether you stop for the person the world has written off.

### **Pray**

*Lord Jesus, you are the true Good Samaritan — you stopped for me when I was beaten and left for dead in my sin. You paid out of your own pocket. You said you would come back to settle the bill. Form your compassion in me. Show me one wounded person this week, and give me the courage to stop. Amen.*

### **Question**

*Whose wounds is the Lord asking me to stop and bind up this week? What will it cost me?*

THURSDAY

## **Avoid Distractions**

*Read: Luke 10:38–40*

**Luke 10:40** — *“But Martha was distracted with much serving.”*

Notice what Martha was distracted by. Not by sin. Not by pleasure. Not by laziness. She was distracted by serving Jesus.

The Greek word for “distracted” literally means “pulled in different directions.” Martha was being torn. She had the most important guest in human history sitting in her living room — and she was so consumed with hospitality that she missed him.

Then she did what distracted people always do. She got resentful. She came to Jesus and accused him: “Lord, do you not care?” The woman in whose house Jesus was literally sitting at that moment accused Jesus of not caring. That is what distraction does. It warps perception.

Most of us don't lose our thriving to obvious sin. We lose it to good things that have crept into the wrong place. Family becomes an idol. Ministry becomes an idol. Work becomes an idol. The kids' schedule becomes an idol. Even Bible study can become an idol when it replaces actually listening to the Lord.

The enemy does not need to drag you into a brothel to ruin you. He just has to keep you busy with one more good thing until you have no time to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Look at your week. Look at your phone. Look at your calendar. What is distracting you from Jesus right now? It may not be anything sinful. It may be your job, your kids' sports, your civic involvement, your social media, even your church work. None of those are evil. All of them can become Martha-distractions.

### ***Pray***

*Father, search me and know me. Show me where good things have crept into a place where only you belong. Help me see the difference between faithful service that flows from your feet, and anxious activity that runs away from them. Pull me back. Quiet me. Restore me. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### ***Question***

*What is one good thing in my life that has slipped into the wrong place — producing anxiety and resentment instead of peace? What is the first step in pruning it?*

FRIDAY

## Remember the Most Important Thing

Read: Luke 10:41-42

**Luke 10:41-42** — *“Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”*

“Martha, Martha.” When Jesus says your name twice in the Gospels, he is loving you to a hard truth. “Simon, Simon” in Luke 22. “Saul, Saul” on the road to Damascus. And now, “Martha, Martha.”

“You are anxious and troubled about many things.” Everything you call necessary the job, the kids, the bills, the ministry, the meal; those many things, however important, are not THE one thing.

The one thing is to sit at his feet.

“Mary has chosen the good portion.” That word “portion” is loaded. In the Old Testament, the priestly tribe of Levi got no land inheritance because the Lord himself was their portion. David picks that up in Psalm 16:5: “The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup.”

By sitting at Jesus' feet, Mary was choosing the Lord himself as her portion.

And then hear this “which will not be taken away from her.”

Everything else you're working for can be taken from you. Cancer can take your health. A recession can take your savings. A scandal can take your reputation. Death will take all of it eventually. But Mary's portion? Sitting with Jesus? That cannot be taken. Not by cancer. Not by death. Not by hell itself.

The one thing necessary is the one thing that nothing can steal.

So, this is the choice. Today. This morning. Right now.

Choose the good portion.

### ***Pray***

*Lord Jesus, you are my portion. Not the things I do for you. Not the people I help. Not the ministry I am part of. You yourself. Today I sit at your feet. Pull me from the many things back to the one thing. Let me hear you call my name. Be my portion forever. Amen.*

### ***Question to carry into your weekend***

*What does it look like, this weekend, to actually choose the good portion — not in theory, but in my real schedule, with my real phone, in my real living room?*

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### **For Saturday and Sunday**

Bring this week of reflection to worship. Read Luke 10 one more time slowly on Saturday evening. Pray Luke 10:41–42 over your household before bed. And come Sunday ready to choose again.

**Luke 10:42** — *“One thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion.”*