

Feb 28th 2016

Luke 10: 1-3

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two (It struck me that we had 72 in attendance last Sunday)

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 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: 1-3

Intro. In our text we see

1st . The Sender - Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two --to do His work. He tells them to pray, for the harvest is great - no sooner did He tell them to pray, but that He announced that **they were the very answer to the prayer!!!! The Shepherd sent the Sheep!**

2nd . The Sheep - unworthy and unable of taking the greatest message to all; it is clear that the sheep belong to Jesus.

3rd . The Situation - among wolves - This world is not friendly to the Gospel.

The world system is no friend of Grace! But how can we make it? What chance to **Sheep** have among **wolves**? **NONE!** ... Without a Shepherd

Now if He sent them, don't you understand, He goes with them. The sheep may be “among wolves”, but the Shepherd is close at hand! Though we are unprotected in our human Strength, it is good to have a Shepherd!

The description of the followers of Christ compared to the inhabitants of the world is quite a contrast! Jesus declared that his followers, the lambs, would be sent among wolves.

What is a Wolf?... A flesh eating animal of prey, fierce and cruel. Cunning in their attack- watch and plan. Very strong, wolfs run in packs and will kill for sport.

What is a Sheep? Sheep are pretty much the most helpless animal on earth.

- They have no defense except to run. (Even a bee has a stinger)
- They do not flinch at being slaughtered, yet they are fearful.
- They cannot sense danger, but when startled, they will stampede.
- They tend to wander from the flock, no sense of direction.

Sheep are sociable... they like to be around other sheep. They are happier in their flock! They are safer in their flock! The sheep need their flock. But that is their **comfort**, not their **hope!**

In the midst of wolves, the only hope for the sheep, **is a shepherd that cares.** **We have been sent among the wolves, and what chance do sheep have among wolves? Absolutely NO CHANCE without a SHEPHERD!**

You and I are in need of the great Shepherd! The families in our community are in need of a great Shepherd!

The Desire of the Shepherd -is to Seek - to look for with desire!

1. The Shepherd Came to Acquire.
2. The Shepherd Came to Purchase - There is a Shepherd that wants you! You may feel unwanted, but the Great Shepherd wants you.

1. The Work of the Shepherd – **John 10: 11** ***"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth***

his life for the sheep."

2. The Will of the Shepherd - that the lost are returned to Him.

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. 1Pe 2:24

Every one that has ever trusted Christ as their Savior, has been the **beneficiary** of the Care of the Shepherd.

Is He your Shepherd? Have you been the beneficiary of the Care of the Shepherd? If Jesus is your Shepherd do you not think every soul should receive the same?

Easter Sunday, March 27th we will celebrate the risen Lord. Already our staff is formulating media objectives to reach into our community . So please be in prayer for our staff as we work with the Deacons and the Lay Leaders in preparation of this Holy event. This year we will put a greater effort to reach people for Easter Sunday than we have in the past.

The Lord tell us: ***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*** This has become our VISION testimonial.

As many of you know, the vision for our church is to have two services geared to reach out to our families in our community. We are fortunate to have Spanish speaking families, English speaking families, and English/Spanish speaking families, and we need to be able to reach out to each of these families with the love of Christ, and to provide for them a worship service to meet their needs.

Legacy 9:00 am A traditional service with inspirational music and hymns expressing our love for God and to encourage one another to take his message of hope and grace into our world

Venture 10:30 am A contemporary service with an energetic style of music geared toward the younger generation and to lift up the name of Jesus, in spirit and in truth.

Believing it is God's plan that we become the '**neighborhood worship center**' for these families in our community. These two morning worship services will begin March 13th to reach all our families in our community by **Easter Sunday**. What a great time to start the vision the Lord has given us. However, we cannot do it alone; so **we will need your help**. How can you help?

First - ***pray...pray...pray "Lord let your vision be our vision"***.

Second - We need your help on **March 12th 9:30 am till Noon** as we need volunteers to pass out 2,000 door hangers. We can do this if you are willing to walk 2 or 3 blocks to help.

Third – INVITE people to come with you on Easter Sunday!

Fourth – March 22 we are sending out 5,000 mailers (similar to our door hangers) to families in English and Spanish with in the two zip codes nearest our church building

Fifth– The pastors will be guest on 2 radio talk show spots and we will have 50 radio commercials on the KGBI AM/FM Radio Network. Promoting the vision God has given us.

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