

Intro:

If you've been around Ethnos long enough, you know that we believe strongly that we're a community that is on mission with Jesus- a mission of restoration, of healing the world of evil and sin, bringing God's goodness throughout the world, through both our words and actions. This is something not just for those who follow Jesus, but also for those who don't- as you consider following Jesus, you need to know that a huge part of following Jesus is joining in on this mission.

We believe this so strongly, because the Bible time and time again asks us to join in. Today's passage is yet another passage about that. Let's take a look, and think 3 different dynamics today involved in this mission.

We're in Luke 9, continuing our journey of building a picture of who Jesus is and what he's about. In Luke 8, we saw glimpses of the power and authority of Jesus over nature, the spiritual world, the human body, and so on. And then in Luke 9, we get this amazing invitation to be a part of his mission. Read Text: Luke 9:1-9

Three things about this mission:

Jesus gives us power and authority for his mission, regardless of if we're new or experienced with Jesus. (v.1-2)

This is pretty clear in v.1. But a few points to note:

- *This giving of authority and power new and experienced followers of Jesus.*

The disciples still have a long way to go at this moment in the story- they have barely begun to understand Jesus, and their faith is really quite weak. Nevertheless, they are invited to join, and given Jesus' power. Joining on Jesus' mission isn't just for those who have been on the road longer, it's for all of us. Don't think you can't do anything. You can. Of course, don't be proud, thinking you have it all together and shouldn't learn from those who may have been on the journey longer. Or, *visa versa*- don't be proud and think you can't learn from someone just starting the journey too. The point is that Jesus power and authority is for both the new and experienced follower of Jesus.

- *The power and authority is to push back darkness and sin, and bring God's goodness, through words and deeds (deliverance, healing, proclaiming). This for us today.*

We read in v.2 that this is for dealing with demons and sickness, and for telling the message of Jesus. We tend to be very understanding of the last task- proclaiming. The first two, especially the first one, sound simply strange.

Yet this is clearly elaborated in the Bible as we see Christians and churches beyond Jesus and the apostles doing it. Ephesians 1:19, 3:10, 6:10-20; 1 Cor. 12:9.

Of course, this is something that may be hard to grasp, both intellectually and practically.

Yet it's important. One avenue we currently have here at Ethnos:

- Get involved in the leadership development track at Ethnos. We go through a book called *Bondage Breaker* that deals with both the intellectual and practical aspects of this idea that we have the power of Jesus to help push back darkness and sin and bring God's goodness.

To whet your appetite, one testimony: Kyle's Story.

Some of you today need to know this for yourselves. Some of you need to join Jesus and help others discover this. Jesus gives us the power and authority to do so.

Jesus calls us to trust God and be content while on his mission. (v.3-4)

Text:

Trust- seen in Jesus' command to not take anything. You will receive from God, and also from the villages you are in.

Content- seen in Jesus' command to stay in a house till you leave. Back then itinerant teachers would go from house to house within a town, to try and get more support and even upgrade their accommodations. Not so with the disciples.

And so Jesus calls to trust God and be content. But there's more.

Jesus calls us to have a wise and prepared mind while on his mission, especially in light of the hostility on this mission.

Text:

I say this because, as things continue to develop in the biography of Luke, Jesus ends up saying this:

- Luke 22:35-38. Things are about to get more difficult- the hospitality of towns will not be there. The disciples are to now prepare for the division and hostility that might arise from this wonderful message and healing Jesus has to offer. This is what the talk on getting swords is about- see your extra study notes.
- And, getting back to our passage in Luke 9, this is what is foreshadowed in the discussion of some places rejecting them, and Herod and his ideas. Be wise and prepared, followers of Jesus, while on his mission.

Our Context:

What does this mean for us today? How do trust, contentment, and a wise mindset all come together with this mission?

I want to think about it in terms of the mission in terms of our words. The reality is that sharing verbally the message of Jesus can garner quite a bit of hostility. Of course, some has been justified in the past because of the attitude or demeanor of Christians. We need to change our attitudes for sure. But the message in and of itself will garner hostility. It is, yes, exclusive. It will, yes, challenge our morality and our self-sufficiency. But can we trust God in that moment? And furthermore, can we develop wisdom for that moment? Can we grow in finding intelligent and wise answers to certain accusations?

Rafa's story.

Our Context: We need to grow in this

- Talk about it in your CGs.
- Start learning- note Gig Training, and also Aug 21- community training at La Jolla Community Church, 9:30am- 12noon.
- Formatio series in the future.

Closing Challenge:

- Give yourself afresh to His mission.
- Embrace his power and authority for His mission.
- Determine in your mind to move forward in trust and wisdom, even in hostility.