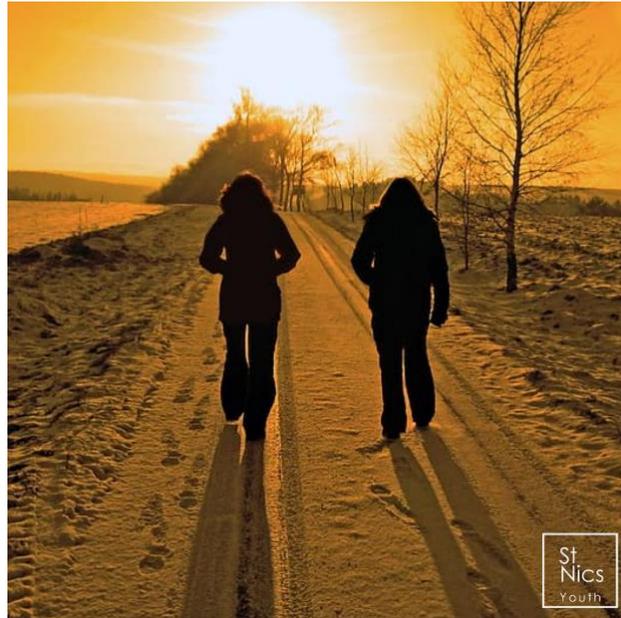


The Apostles Sent Out

Bible Reading: Luke 10:1-9

Bottom Line: We're sent out in Jesus' name, and he will provide for us



Picture the scene

You and your friends have been following this man for a few weeks now. He's been healing the sick wherever you went, and he gives off a feeling of divine authority. And yet he seems to be just a regular guy. You've grown quite comfortable following him; going where you told, staying at the back, watching his miracles.

One morning, Jesus calls you all over to tell you something. You gather round, and he starts to explain. You need to leave him and go out on your own. You sit in there for a moment in a confused and stunned silence. Everything makes sense when you're following him. How can I go out my own? I can't be the one to heal the sick.

Jesus keeps talking. Not alone, he says. You're to go out in pairs. So at least I'll have someone with me. Suddenly it doesn't seem quite so scary. But as he continues, he explains that you're not allowed to bring any money, a bag or even shoes. How will you survive? And yet, there's something about this man. Somehow, even with these seemingly crazy instructions, you know you can trust him.

And so, with a pit in your stomach, and still terrified of what's to come, you and your friend set out on the road. And amid all the fear and uncertainty, it somehow feels like everything will be OK. More than OK actually.

Highlights from the passage

- The apostles are sent out in pairs. Doing Christ's work in the world is never something we're alone in, and we should always have other people with us.
- The apostles are given the authority to heal the sick. These were just ordinary people who had begun following Jesus, and they now have the power to work miracles in His name.
- They're sent out with no money or spare clothes, and "like lambs in the midst of wolves." And yet we read later on that all 72 return. These apostles trusted Jesus and took an enormous risk in following His instructions, and they were all provided for and kept safe.

Going deeper

- The bible often uses farming metaphors to describe God's people. When Jesus says "the harvest is plentiful" he's referring to the people that could be gathered in to the Kingdom of Heaven, just like wheat is gathered in to the barn. When Jesus looks around the world, every single person is precious to Him, and He wants nothing more than to gather them up into His perfect kingdom which is being built.
- And yet "the laborers are few". We are all invited to become laborers building God's kingdom, and to go out and do good things in His name. It's an enormous privilege that we've all been entrusted with our own part to play in building a better world, so let's try to do it faithfully.
- The only people that are criticised are the towns that don't receive the apostles. God speaks to us through real humans who have been sent in His name (and those people are all around us, not just our church leaders). The worst thing we can do is to ignore the message He's trying to tell us. But if we just stop and listen, we have the chance to receive His grace and be granted eternal life.

The point: If we trust in Jesus and follow Him, we have a part to play in building a better world.

Discussion questions:

1. We are all sent out to do Jesus' work. How do you feel about the idea that you have a part to play in changing someone's life for the better?
2. Jesus sent the apostles out in pairs. How often do you try to solve problems on your own instead of turning to a friend or family member?
3. The apostles were told to take nothing with them. How would you feel about being sent away from home with no money or clothes? Are there any smaller matters in your life that you should trust Jesus with?