

How Should We Engage in Missions?

Luke 10:1-20

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"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. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves." - Luke 10:2-3, ESV

As believers in Jesus, we are not just in the world to mark our time, be good people, and wait until we go to heaven or Jesus returns. No, we are given a mission, to go into the world with the Gospel. Some are called to go to the mission field, serving Jesus in foreign lands, reaching unreached peoples. Others of us are called to a more local mission, to reach neighbors and friends, co-workers and family members. Wherever we are called to serve, we should all see ourselves as being "on mission" for Jesus.

So, how should we engage in the mission of the Gospel? Today's passage in Luke is the account of Jesus sending out 72 disciples as missionaries. This was a key training event for the life of the church, as Jesus was showing the disciples how to engage in Gospel mission outreach. Based on this passage, we can see how we are to engage in missions:

1. Prayerfully. (v. 2) Prayer is the great fuel and power source for truly effective missions. We need to pray for the Lord to send more people into the mission field, and we need to pray for fruit from their labor.

2. Peacefully. (v. 3) We are not to engage in culture wars, seeking to vanquish our enemies. No, we are to love and serve, innocently and peacefully. We are sent as lambs in the midst of wolves, and though we are hated, we must not hate in return.

3. Faithfully. (v. 4) We are to be "on mission" by faith, trusting in God to supply our every need. We should not be anxious, nor should we seek to avoid all risk or rely on our own resources. Often God takes us beyond our own resources so He can supply our need.

4. Confidently. (vv. 9-11) As Christians, we are kingdom ambassadors, representatives of the kingdom of God. We should not be anxious, worried, timid, shy or insecure. We should know who we represent and speak His words and show His compassion with confidence. If people reject us, they are not rejecting us but Him who sent us.

5. Rejoicing in our salvation. (v. 20) These 72 disciples were given unique, powerful authority over demons and sickness, and they were amazed by the power Jesus had given them. But Jesus told them not to rejoice over power and authority, *"but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."* We must not lose sight of this primary cause for our joy, that we are children of God who have received eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Where is your mission field? Who has God put in your life who needs to hear the Gospel or see the love of Jesus? Can you engage in your mission with prayer, peace, faith, confidence and joy in your salvation? As we do, we can trust that God will work His perfect will, even through imperfect people like us.