

## The Challenge of the Commission - Luke 10:1

### I. The Taxing Task

- a. Luke 10:2 (ESV) <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, "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.
- b. The task is to evangelize, in our case, Plainview, Texas
- c. There is plenty of work, but not enough workers
- d. Jesus says there are plenty of people that need him, but not enough of His own willing to go tell them
  - i. The challenge of a never-ending job
  - ii. The discouragement over results
  - iii. Do not grow weary
  - iv. Galatians 6:7–10 (ESV) <sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
  - v. The task is difficult (taxing), but the rewards cannot be measured
- e. So, remember, whenever you are given the opportunity, preach the word
- f. 2 Timothy 3:16–4:2 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. <sup>1</sup> I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: <sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

### II. The Overpowering Opposition

- a. Luke 10:3; Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.
- b. Jesus plainly tells us that we will face opposition to the message we speak
- c. Regardless of that, we still must speak!
- d. 2 Timothy 4:3–5 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.
- e. At times, it seems that the opposition is winning
- f. American Atheist
  - i. "Since 1963, American Atheist has been the premier organization laboring for the civil liberties of Atheists, and the total, absolute separation of government and religion."

- ii. “He believes that we are our brother's keepers; and are keepers of our own lives; that we are responsible persons and the job is here and the time is now.”
- g. The First Amendment to the US Constitution; “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”
  - i. As Christians, we exercise our right to practice Christianity
  - ii. 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV) <sup>2</sup> and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- h. We must be a people who are not afraid of the opposition to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

### III. The Test to Trust God

- a. Luke 10:4–9 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ <sup>6</sup> And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’
- b. Since we are in a society that opposes the message we bring; we must trust our Father to provide for us while we work in His Kingdom
  - i. Joseph had a lot of opportunities to show us his focus on God
    - 1. Tossed into a pit by his brothers
    - 2. Sold into slavery
    - 3. Thrown into jail
  - ii. Gideon
    - 1. Made a military leader by God (he was from the weakest clan in Manasseh, and he was least in his father’s house)
    - 2. He was hiding from the Midianites (threshing wheat in the winepress) when God first spoke to him
    - 3. God reduced his army from around 32,000 to 300
- c. We must seek to do God’s will and God will take care of us
- d. Our focus must be on God and His task to reconcile mankind to Himself

### IV. The Reality of Rejection

- a. Luke 10:10–16 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> “The one who hears you hears me,

and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

- b. Unfortunately, not everyone will receive the message with excitement
    - i. The sower only reached 3/4 of his audience
    - ii. Jesus tells us about the narrow gate
    - iii. Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
    - iv. We all have friends that do not want to hear the truth
    - v. We must keep throwing that seed
    - vi. Remember verse 16, “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”
- V. Are you up to the task?
- a. To preach the word even though only a few will labor
  - b. To preach the word amidst overpowering opposition
  - c. To preach the word putting your complete trust in God
  - d. To preach the word regardless of those who reject Him