

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**June 14, 2020**

**Psalm 100:1-5 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. <sup>2</sup>Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. <sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**Exodus 19:2-8 (NIV)** <sup>2</sup>After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." <sup>7</sup>So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. <sup>8</sup>The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

**Romans 5:6-15 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more,

having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. <sup>15</sup>But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

**Matthew 9:35-10:8 (NIV)** <sup>35</sup>Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup>When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup>Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." <sup>10:1</sup>He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. <sup>2</sup>These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup>Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; <sup>4</sup>Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup>Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' <sup>8</sup>Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

## ***The Good News of the Kingdom***

Matthew 9:35-10:8

- ❑ **The good news of the kingdom** (Matthew 9:35; Mark 1:14-15; Isaiah 52:7)
- ❑ **The compassion of Jesus**  
(Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34; Mark 1:41; Luke 7:13; Isaiah 53:6; Ezekiel 34:1-12, 15-16)
- ❑ **The urgency of prayer**  
(Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35-36)
- ❑ **Mission: Impossible** (Matthew 10:1-8; Luke 1:37)

### **Lessons for life:**

1. We must see people with the same heart of compassion by which Jesus saw people. (Matthew 9:36)
2. Any attempt to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom must begin with prayer (Matthew 9:37-38)
3. You can't give what you have not received. Jesus said, *freely you have received, freely give.* (Matthew 10:8)

## ***The Good News of the Kingdom***

Matthew 9:35-10:8

### ❑ **The good news of the kingdom**

*Matthew 9:35* Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching [proclaiming] the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Have you ever had news so good that you had to share it?

The doctor tells you, "there is no longer any sign of cancer in your body." Your boss tells you, you're getting a promotion, and a raise!" You rip open the envelop and discover you've been accepted to the college you had always dreamed of attending.

Even as Jesus proclaimed *the good news of the kingdom*, He commissioned His disciples, to share that good news also. And we will discover that this includes us!

For those who heard Jesus words and experienced His miracles, indeed, it was good news!

The kingdom of God is properly understood as the rule or reign of God.

The good news of the kingdom was that God had come to His people; that the prophecies of the Old Testament had been fulfilled;

Mark 1:14-15 tells us: . . . *Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel [good news] of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* (ESV)

Isaiah 52:7 contains one of those prophecies: O *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."* (NRSV)

The good news was that the promised kingdom had made a beachhead in this world of sin and sorrow; of disease and death.

Jesus demonstrated that by *healing every disease and sickness*

This was the beginning of the end of Satan's kingdom, whom Jesus called, *the ruler of this world*.

In Jesus, God had come to reclaim His lost and scattered flock and to redeem and save His people.

Matthew is writing to the church—at the very end of the apostolic age—when very few of those who Jesus designated as apostles (sent ones) were still alive. Matthew is giving the church its playbook. He is saying, this is what Jesus did, and this is what Jesus modeled for and empowered his apostles to do; GO and complete this mission—proclaim this good news of the kingdom, to every nation.

If we are going to take that Great Commission seriously, which we heard in last week's gospel lesson, then first, we need to understand what motivated Jesus. We need to know . . .

## □ **The compassion of Jesus**

*Matthew 9:36* When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Throughout the gospels we are told that Jesus was motivated by compassion.

That it was out of compassion that Jesus healed the sick. Matthew 14:14 (ESV) records, *When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick*.

In Matthew 15:32 Jesus fed the 4,000 out of compassion for them. We are told that it was out of compassion that Jesus healed two blind men (Matthew 20:34) and that Jesus, *filled with compassion* cleansed a man of leprosy (Mark 1:41). And in

compassion Jesus drove a demon out of a boy (Mark 9:22).

In Luke 7:13, when Jesus came upon a funeral procession and learned it was for the only son of a widow, which in that day would leave her defenseless and impoverished, we are told Jesus *had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep,"* and then He raised her son from the dead. The people who witnessed that, *glorified God, saying . . . "God has visited his people."* They knew that the Kingdom of Heaven had indeed come near.

It is recorded in today's gospel, that Jesus had compassion on the crowds as a good shepherd has compassion on his sheep. Jesus observed that *they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd*.

We heard in the Psalm this morning (Psalm 100:3) <sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD is God . . . we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

But as Isaiah 53:6 says: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way.*

The good news of the kingdom is that God himself will come to his people to be their shepherd.

Again, this fulfills prophecy. We are told in Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16: <sup>11</sup> *"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. . . . <sup>15</sup>I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>16</sup>I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak . . . I will shepherd the flock with justice.* (NIV)

This is part of what Jesus proclaimed as the good news of the Kingdom. Often in the Old Testament,

the Kings and religious leaders were spoken of as shepherds. In Jesus, God has come to shepherd His flock, his people.

Jesus was moved by compassion. Our motivation can be no less.

Jesus called his disciples, and He calls us, to pray.

So, second, we need to understand . . .

### ❑ **The urgency of prayer**

*Matthew 9:37* Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

The fields are ripe right now. Laborers are needed now!

If you’ve ever lived in farm country, then you know that harvest time can be the most joyous season as the farmer gathers in what they have long toiled for. But it can also be the most anxious of times since the farmer must wait until the grain is fully ripe, but cannot delay once it is, since a hailstorm or a field fire, can wipe out the whole crop.

That happened to Laura Ingalls (of *Little House on the Prairie* fame) in her first year of marriage to Almanzo Wilder.) Their whole crop, which they had borrowed heavily to plant, was destroyed by a hailstorm just as it was ready to harvest.

Most of my ministry has been in farm country. In Illinois if the farmer harvests his corn too soon, before it is thoroughly dried, he will be docked on the price he gets at the grain elevator, or will have to spend money on propane to dry it out. If he waits too long, an early snowfall or hailstorm can ruin the crop.

When the harvest is ready, there can be no delay. Jesus commanded his disciples to pray with urgency.

Jesus told his disciples in John 4:35-36a <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup>Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life . . . (NIV)

Apparently, the disciples did what Jesus told them to do, to *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

At least 12 of them became the answer to their own prayer.

### ❑ **Mission: Impossible**

*10:1* He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

In verse 2 these disciples are called apostles, and in verse 5 we are told that *these twelve Jesus sent out.* The word apostle just means, messenger, or one who is sent.

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup>Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup>As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’

<sup>8</sup>Heal the sick,  
raise the dead,  
cleanse those who have leprosy,  
drive out demons.

As I read this, I can hear the theme of Mission: Impossible playing in the background. What Jesus is asking them to do seems utterly impossible. *Raise the dead!* Really?

Have you ever been asked to do something that seemed impossible?

There have been a few times in my life where I’ve experienced that, but with the right training, and

help and mentoring of someone with the right experience and expertise, the project actually became possible.

There have been more than a few times in ministry that I've seen God do the impossible. But I should not be surprised because Scripture tells us, *with God, nothing is impossible!* (Luke 1:37)

Jesus only asked the disciples to do what He had already done (as recorded in chapters 8 & 9 of Matthew). They saw Jesus do it, and now they were to do the same—including raising the dead!

This ought to challenge us. It would be easy to dismiss these commands as being merely for the apostles. That was then, this is now.

We ought to be challenged by this impossible mission because Jesus is still sending out His disciples to do what they could not do in their own power.

Jesus' commission in our gospel lesson ended with these words: *Freely you have received, freely give.*

You can't give what you don't have. They were not to do this on their own authority, or by their own power, but Jesus had given them authority to do it (10:1) and that authority came with the power to accomplish it. The Greek word used here means both power and authority.

Again, Jesus commanded his disciples to do the impossible.

How do we respond when our Lord asks us, commands us to do, what is impossible for us to do?

The answer to that question is, that it causes us to have a radical dependence on Jesus.

To be a disciple means that you follow the example of your teacher (in Hebrew, Rabbi). The disciples watched what Jesus did, and then Jesus commissioned 12 to go out and do the same—the *exact* same!

How will you and I put this into practice? Here are some . . .

### **Lessons for life:**

If we are to fulfill the mission of Jesus to proclaim the good news of the kingdom in word AND deed, then

1. We must see people with the same heart of compassion by which Jesus saw people. (Matthew 9:36)
2. Any attempt to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom must begin with prayer (Matthew 9:37-38) In and through prayer, God not only changes the heart of the person we pray for, but our heart as well.
3. You can't give what you have not received. (Matthew 10:1-8)

Jesus said, *freely you have received, freely give.* One has to first receive the good news of the kingdom before sharing it. The good news (gospel) of the kingdom, is that God has come to reign in our hearts as Lord through Jesus and in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

We are given gifts of the spirit, and as a church are given the power and authority to accomplish the mission Jesus sends us to do.

We cannot do this by ourselves. We cannot receive Jesus as our savior or live for Him by our own effort, intellect or ability.

Are you a citizen of God's kingdom? Is Jesus your King; your Savior and Lord? Then, GO, proclaim **the good news of the kingdom** in your words and in your deeds.

Let us pray . . .

**Benediction:** 1 Timothy 1:17 (NASB)

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer Notes**  
June 14th, 2020

"Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable."

Help us to enjoy the blessings of the summertime.

We thank You that online worship services are being listened. We lift Pastor Tim to You as he shepherds us from a distance.

Thank you for the safe birth of Asher Glenn Hendrix who was born to Michael and Emily

Hendrix on Monday night, weighing in at 8 lbs, 3 oz!

Thank you that Dean Bengston's rehabilitation is showing good results from time, care, and hard work invested by many.

During this pandemic, please help us not to grow weary of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Be with Grace's leadership and Church Reopening Protocol Committee as guidelines are being developed, to determine how and when to resume in-person worship. Help us to be good stewards of our members and communities health, while continuing to provide online services and Zoom Bible Studies.

Continue to be with our families who have babies due during this season. Protect the families as well as extended families from illness.

We ask that you bring Ezra Hostetler to complete recovery

Be with David during his second round of chemo treatments.

Provide Angela Humphrey's and her family what they need each day as her strength from chemo treatment

returns, and as she is thankful for each day she is in remission.

We pray for peace for Geoff Hoggard as he goes in for a biopsy on one of the lymph nodes on Wednesday. We also pray for wisdom for the doctors.

We pray for Nathaniel Hendrix as he is looking for a teaching job. Guide him to the school you have for him. Be with his wife, Jackie as she begins her medical residency tomorrow.

We ask for your Holy Spirit's presence and guidance among our friends and family who are seeking you.

For those who have lost a loved one, help them find their joy in You. Help them to trust You as their God of hope. Fill them with Your joy, peace, and hope.

We pray for Marianne Boothe, Pastor Tim's aunt, who lost her husband Tommy last week.