

Just finished a week long road trip with my brother Pastor Anthony Ciaccio - we drove an average of 800 miles every day - Prescott to Amarillo TX - St.Louis- Buffalo - Boston - / Interesting thing we both said when we pulled into Boston (ENTERING DESTINY) In the will and purposes of God for my Brothers life - calling and destiny started long before the road trip to Boston. / you don't have to drive across the country to start doing the will of God -

The purpose and call God has for each of us is not a far off promise or something we can never attain Destiny is within reach

Luke 10:1-2

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2 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.

I. THE NEED

A. Focus on the Harvest - Jesus is talking about people not food

1. Jesus cares about the suffering of humanity

Matthew 14:14 *And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

2. The Only hope people have is message of the Gospel that you've experienced

a) Social programs and self help will never be enough / feed people / house people

3. Powerful thing we see in our text - Jesus gives the disciples and us a reminder of what's important to him

a) The currency of the kingdom of God is people - people are what is most valuable to Jesus

B. Sad reality: **FEW LABORERS**

Luke 10:2 *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.*

1. Needs of humanity can go **unnoticed**

a) Something will have have your attention - not necessarily evil / just has nothing to do with the harvest

b) Making money/ being successful/ education/ entertainment / business of life

2. Needs of humanity can be **ignored**

a) Problem is the unnoticed harvest will become the ignored harvest

Luke 9:59 *To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."*

b) It possible we don't see the harvest the same way Jesus does / people dying and spending eternity in hell cannot be ignored

C. Result - Disciples can feel calling and usefulness is **out of reach**

1. Assume because **some men** are doing Gods will then that's enough

a) Notice in our text Jesus Does not say there are no laborers in the field - He says the laborers are few

b) When you compare the need (Harvest) to the amount of laborers to bring in that harvest - Jesus says there is not enough

c) *Excited for the people Anthony and Natalie are going to reach - encouraged of what God is doing / but there is so much more harvest that is complete untouched - The question: what will you do about it?*

2. We feel unable to make any kind of difference

a) Had this feeling when I preached in Kolkata for Pastor Chris Whendt - when you see the incredible need of humanity / lost and broken people - men can feel that on their own they are inadequate

(1) *Not developed enough as a man of God, things I still don't know, never going to be used / chosen*

3. **Fail to do what is necessary today**

a) Disciples can think they will magically be fruitful and effective after they are sent out

b) When you get out - you simply become a more expensive version of what you are today

II. THE CALL

A. **Recognizing the call**

1. God uses men to fulfill His will

Exodus 3:7 *Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering.*

Luke 10:1 *Appointed seventy and sent them ahead of him*

a) So encouraging to me - God is no looking for complete specimens - men who have it all put together

- (1) Been said - God is not looking for the best and brightest but simply those willing to obey
2. Each man here was created for a purpose and destiny
 - a) Not an accident / not a mistake - you were designed by God and God has a plan for you life

Jeremiah 29:11—11 *For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.*

- b) Nothing else compares to the incredible honor and privilege of being called by God / being used by God / doing what God has made you for
3. God will speak to you about His will for you life
 - a) Jesus nature is to make His will and purpose clear for his people / not some great mystery

B. Hearing the call

1. Hearing the call requires our hearts to align with what Jesus cares about
 - a) Jesus says - pray the lord sends laborers into the harvest
 - b) If we are going to hear the call of God we must be focused on what Jesus is focused on - people
2. Our expectation in hearing the call
 - a) First- Jesus desire is to send men into the Harvest - Men here this morning
 - (1) Hearing the call: this can vary from man to man - some it could be an impression, a strong feeling in response to what God is doing / could be a sermon that inspires / could be a scripture you read

Biblical examples: *Moses saw a bush and it was not consumed, Samuel heard a still small voice, Jonah was swallowed by a whale David responded to a need - Killed Goliath, Saul -later became Paul was knocked off is donkey and saw a bright light*

C. Responding to the call

1. **Calling demands a response:** To see what God has for you , you must respond
 - a) Knowing about the call of God/ hearing the call of God for your life personally must result in action
2. Saying yes to Jesus is saying no to other things
 - a) Its easy to make excuses why it won't work for you / *too old, too young, health issues, financial issues, insecurity, fear, pride*
3. Men here that are the answer to that prayer for laborers
 - a) Jesus tells the men he is sending out - pray for more laborers / the need is too great to be ignored / the need is too great to be delayed/ the need is too great to be forgotten
 - b) **Has Jesus called me?..... Am I doing everything in my power to be sent out as soon as possible?..... What has taken the place of my calling?..... Have I changed the terms of my calling?What's stopping me from going?**

III. THE EQUIPPING

A. God is the one who sends

1. Jesus will send you into the harvest field **Locally** first

Matthew 10:7 *As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’*

- a) You have the privilege of being disciples in Prescott - to be trained and discipled here / have opportunities in a brand new one80 building / ability to learn how to preach/ write sermons
2. Jesus sending gives us confidence that **He knows what He's doing**
 - a) Chances are the 70 that were sent out had some flaws / problems / Jesus is aware of all that
 - b) Being launched into a new city / not knowing anyone / looking for a house / building / Its His Idea not ours - **work of God not of man**

B. The Lord of the harvest makes us effective

1. Its the power and conviction of the Holy Spirit that makes any of us effective

Luke 24:49—49 *“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”*

Both to will and do of his good pleasure

- a) Incredible promise - when we simply step out and obey God - makes His will of your lives possible

C. The Harvest is within reach for each of you

1. What city or nation has God called you to reach? / what people group is waiting for you?
 - a) It is within reach this morning - start today /

John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*