

Luke 10:1-3

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

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1

Bigger and better. Luke 10:1-3

Your team is bigger than you think. 10:1

We are a meta team. 1 "seventy-two others"

We have micro teams. 1 "two by two"

Your opportunities are bigger than you think. 10:2a

Have an abundance mentality. 2a "The harvest is plentiful"

Hold an appropriate reality. 2a "the workers are few"

Your resources are bigger than you think. 10:2b

Draw on your external resources. 2b "Ask the Lord of the harvest"

Draw on God's eternal resources. 2b "his harvest field"

Your attitude is bigger than you think. 3

Go deliberately out there. 3 "Go! I am sending you out"

Go gently out there. 3 "like lambs among wolves"

2

Don't stop with a plan in your hand. Luke 10:1-3

Jesus has a plan for me. 10:1

Jesus first drew me in. 1a "the Lord appointed"

Jesus now sends me out. 1b "He sent ahead of Him... where He was about to go"

Jesus has a place for me. 10:2

Look at the harvest. 2a "harvest is plentiful"

Look above the harvest. 2b "Lord of the harvest"

Look into the harvest. 2c "His harvest field"

Jesus has people for me. 10:3

I must go for Jesus. 3a "Go! I am sending you out"

I must depend on Jesus. 3b "like lambs among wolves"

3

Workers wanted. Luke 10:1-3

The Lord's workers are always in a team. 10:1

Keep the big picture in mind. 1 "seventy-two"

Keep the small picture in focus. 1 "two by two"

The Lord's workers have a clear task. 10:1b

Look what is ahead of you. 1b "ahead of Him"

Know who is behind you. 1b "where He was about to go"

The Lord's workers should expect trouble. 10:3

Problems come from within me. 3 "like lambs"

Problems come from beyond me. 3 "among wolves"

4

What on earth are we doing? Luke 10:1-3

Our church is a team. 10:1

Our church needs a big team. 1 "seventy-two"

Our church needs small teams. 1 "two by two"

Our church has a task. 10:1b

Step out into the unknown. 1b "ahead of Him"

Step out with the known. 1b "where He was about to go"

Our church faces trials. 10:3

We go without strength. 3 "like lambs"

We go not needing strength. 3 "among wolves"

5

You'll never walk alone. Luke 10:1-3

Never doubt. 10:1a

Jesus wants me with Him. 1a "the Lord appointed"

Jesus wants me for Him. 1b "where He was about to go"

Never alone. 10:1b

Think church – think big. 1a "seventy-two others"

Think church – think small. 1b "two by two"

Never worry. 10:2-3

We will always have opportunities. 2 "harvest is plentiful"

We will always have opposition. 3 “lambs among wolves”

6

What’s next? Luke 10:1a “After this”

After sending out the Twelve. 9:1-9

After feeding the five thousand. 9:10-17

After Peter’s realisation. 9:18-27

After the transfiguration. 9:28-36

After overcoming demons. 9:37-43

After clarifying discipleship. 9:43-62

7

I am a lamb. Why is Jesus throwing me to the wolves? Luke 10:1-3

I don’t go alone to the wolves. 10:1

Others go with me. 1a “seventy-two others... two by two”

Jesus goes with me. 1b “every town and place where he was about to go”

I don’t go to the habitat of wolves. 10:2

I go with a non-wolf task. 2a “harvest is plentiful”

I go with a non-wolf ask. 2b “Ask the Lord of the harvest”

I don’t go to the wolves, at all. 10:2-3

We go as harvesters, not hunters. 2c “workers into his harvest”

We belong to the farm, not the forest. 3 “like lambs”

8

Hunters and gatherers. Luke 10:1-3 (We are gatherers, not hunters)

We go out authoritatively. 10:1

We go with a Divine appointment. 1a “the Lord appointed”

We go to our Divine appointment. 1b “where He was about to go”

We go out optimistically. 10:2

There is plenty for me to do. 2a “harvest is plentiful”

There is more than I can do. 2b “workers are few”

We go out inadequately. 10:2-3

We have constant requests. 2c “Ask the Lord of the harvest”

We have constant requirements. 3 “like lambs among wolves”

What smart harvesters know. Luke 10:1-2

We harvest only what has been sown. John 4:35-38

We harvest the same kind as we sow. Job 4:8, John 3:6, Ephesians 6:8, Galatians 6:7-8

We harvest in a different season than when we sow. Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 10:36

We harvest more than we sow. Exodus 22:4, Hosea 8:7, Matthew 13:8, 19:29, Mark 10:30

We harvest in proportion to what is sown. Proverbs 11:25, 19:17, 2 Cor.9:6, Luke 6:38

We harvest for ourselves, then for others. 2 Timothy 2:6

We harvest by diligence. Weeds come up easily. Galatians 6:9, Matt.13:24-28a, Heb.12:1-3

We can't do anything about last year's harvest. Philippians 3:13, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Partners for change. Luke 10:1-3

I am a participant with my Senior Partner. 10:1

I have been given a position. 1a "appointed"

I have been given a program. 1b "sent"

I am prepared by my Senior Partner. 10:2

This is required of me. 2a "told them"

This is requested by me. 2b "ask the Lord"

I am protected by my Senior Partner. 10:3

I am to look within. 3 "lambs"

I am to look around. 3 "wolves"

What does God want of me now? Luke 10:1-3

What does God want me to do? 10:1

Jesus wants me to take responsibility. 1a "the Lord appointed"

Jesus wants me to take initiative. 1b "He sent them"

Jesus wants me to make preparations. 1c "He was about to go"

What does God want me to see? 10:2

Jesus wants me to see my opportunities. 2a "The harvest is plentiful"

Jesus wants me to see my limitations. 2b "the workers are few"

Jesus wants me to see my resources. 2c "Ask the Lord"

What does God want me to know? 10:3

Jesus wants me to know my future. 3a "Go! I am sending you out"

Jesus wants me to know my frailty. 3b “like lambs”
Jesus wants me to know my foes. 3c “among wolves”

12

I’m no saint. Luke 10:1-3

Ordinary Christians just go where Jesus is going. 10:1

First, with Jesus, then for Jesus. 1 “appointed... and sent them”

Not to save, but to prepare. 1 “where he was about to go”

Ordinary Christians just expect what Jesus is expecting. 10:2

A complete harvest is coming. Matthew 13:30,41, Revelation 14:14-16

A vast harvest is possible. 2 “The harvest is plentiful”

Ordinary Christians just go like Jesus is going. 10:3

Jesus is God’s lamb. John 1:29,36. Rev.12:11, 21:27. Rom.6:23

We are God’s lambs. 3 “sending you out like lambs”

13

Look! It’s the whole world. Luke 10:1-3

Look! It’s Jesus!

Look who He is. 1 “Lord”, 2 “Lord of the Harvest”

Look where He goes. 1 “every town and place”

Look! It’s us!

Look who we are. 1 “appointed... and sent out”

Look what we do. 2 “workers... workers”

Look! It’s everyone!

Everyone needs Jesus. 2 “harvest is plentiful”

Not everyone wants Jesus. “like lambs among wolves”

Other possible titles

I don’t want to go into the woods dressed in this little red riding hood

The theology of fairy tales

I hate being eaten alive

Man up, and get out there

Jesus has got my back

Become a wolf whisperer

Recruitment poster for lambs

Be the answer to your own prayer

Lamb on the rotisserie
Lamb chops chopped
How to get your prayers answered

Music and songs

Songs about witness

Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you, 465
Christ for the world we sing, H 327
Come and join the reapers... Faithful men. (Twila Paris)
Do not wait... brighten the corner where you are, CWH 70
Everybody ought to know, HCJ 43
Facing the task unfinished, H 333
Go forth in His name, (Kendrick) 72
God of grace and God of glory, on Thy people... H 359
Hear the call of the Kingdom, (Getty)
Heralds of Christ who bear the King's commands, H 337
Jesus is the answer for the world today, Ot 82
Let the song go round the earth, Jesus Christ is Lord. H 343
People need the Lord
People to people, 88
Reach out to Jesus, CWH 2
Reach out to your neighbour, FE 17
Send me out, Ot 57
Tell the world (Yes He did), FE 61
There's a call comes ringing... Send the light, H 354
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Ot 83
Thou whose almighty word... Let there be light. H 348
Touching Heaven, changing earth, Ot 21
We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves, H 350
We've a story to tell to our neighbours, H 353

Songs about harvest

Sowing in the morning... Bringing in the sheaves, C 317

Songs about prayer

Forgive O Lord... heal our land
Hear my cry oh God, attend unto my prayer
I'm praying for you, Ot 33

Songs about overcoming wolves

Destined to win
Fear not, SiS 505
The battle belongs to the Lord, SiS 630

Songs about the Good Shepherd
King of Love my Shepherd is, 86
Shepherd King, 726
Shepherd of Love, FE 30
Shepherd of my soul, Ot 48

Complementary readings

Parable of the sower and four soils, Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15
Parable of the wheat, the weeds, and the harvest, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Quotes and illustration

Step into the pulpit wearing a farming hat and chewing a hayseed. Pulpit of haybales?

Do your givin' while you're living' so you're sowin' where you're goin'.

Do not pray for a smaller task. Instead, pray for bigger resources.

The wolves we meet are not those people but the spiritual forces behind them.

A pastor began his Sunday sermon by saying, "I'd like to make three points today. First, there are millions of people around the world who are going to go to hell. Second, most of us sitting here today don't give a damn about that." After a lengthy pause, he continued, "My third point is that you are more concerned that I, your pastor, said the word 'damn' than you are about the millions going to hell" (Reader's Digest [5/79]).

The word 'appointed' [ἀναδείκνυμι Strong's 322] (v1) is occurs only twice in Scripture. Here and Acts 1:24 when a replacement for Judas was appointed to be one of the Twelve.

Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labour. Ecclesiastes 4:9

Any testimony to be validated as true must be confirmed in the mouth of at least two witnesses. Deuteronomy 19:15

The harvest at the end of the age is reaped by angels (Matthew 13:30,41) but this harvest is reaped by mere mortals, so it must be a harvest of evangelism in this age.

The Lord of the Harvest will reap at the end of the age (Revelation 14:14-16).

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. Matthew 7:15

Thought starters for personal reflection or group study

1. The Bible often used lambs, sheep, and flocks, to describe believers. Why do you think this is appropriate imagery?

2. a) What does the image of a wolf suggest? b) Why does Jesus send us “among wolves” rather than “to wolves”?
 3. a) What two words did Jesus use to describe the harvest (v2)? b) In what sense is that a fair description of the harvest?
 4. List some advantages of going as a team when going among wolves.
 5. Read Matthew 7:15. What do we need to watch out for, today?
 6. My prayer for myself this week is Ephesians 6:19-20
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