

Traveling Light

Luke 10:1-20

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We are once again invited to find a place for ourselves in this passage, and I think the place for all of us is with the disciples. Not so much because of their particular place or relationship with Jesus, but because the word “disciple” is a Greek translation of a word that fundamentally means “learner”. In this passage, Jesus is teaching the disciples some important lessons about their mission and about their calling, and we should be learners of those lessons along with them.

The disciples had responded to the call of Jesus to follow Him without hesitation, and the longer they followed, the more clearly they understood that following Jesus was no more optional for them than breathing. We should have that same understanding, and be as desperate for the presence of God in our every moment as we are for air to breathe. They did not have to know everything that following meant, and neither do we... just that our faith that God loves us completely is all we need to know to make following Him the only right thing we can do.

The longer we follow and learn, the more we come to understand about what it really means to be true disciples of Jesus, including the mission beyond ourselves. Jesus did not call the disciples and does not call us just for our own benefit, but for service in the kingdom of God. When we come face-to-face with the reality of who we are and the truth of who God is, and we accept the gift of God’s salvation through His grace, we know who saves us, we know what we are saved from, and we begin to learn what we are saved for.

Luke had the benefit as he wrote the Gospel of knowing the end of the story, including the part where the Risen Christ delivers the Great Commission. We find a version of that Commission at the end of the Gospel of Matthew, and Luke’s version at the beginning of the Book of Acts at Acts 1:8: “... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” That pretty much covers everybody. So as Luke

