

Episode 54

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. 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."

- Luke 10:1-2

In this portion of Luke, Jesus begins to model that being on mission is fundamental to being his disciple.

Luke recounts how Jesus chose 72 disciples to send out - which is rather significant. Ancient readers would know, and commentators will tell you that in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, which was the translation most synagogues were using at the time, when you went to Genesis 10 where you have what's called the Table of Nations listing all the nations on the face of the earth, there were 72. So by calling 72 disciples to go ahead of him into the towns and cities he was planning to minister in, Jesus is saying it's not just me and you riding off into the sunset together, but rather, we are on mission together and our mandate is to take the gospel everywhere we go.

Jesus has spent years showing his disciples that they are called 'radically in' as Tim Keller likes to say. To be a disciple means we have the radical privilege of experiencing closeness to Christ, intimacy with the Father, and the presence of his Spirit. But now Jesus says, at the very same time, I am calling you to go radically out.

What this means is that the fundamental reason behind God's blessing in your life is so that you can be a blessing. You are called radically in, so that God can send you radically out into the world, no longer just focusing on your needs, but the needs of others - and these two aspects of discipleship always go together.

God calls Abraham to himself, pours out his blessing on him, and then sends him out to a foreign land. Moses gets drawn in at the burning bush only to be sent out to go toe to toe with Pharaoh. Isaiah sees God high and lifted up, and then responds to God's presence by putting up his hand saying 'here am I, send me'.

God has called you in, ravished you with his presence, drenched you in his favour in order to say "now I want you to live radically for other people, in a way you never have before, for their needs, for their issues. I want you to go out into the world and I want you to be a healing agent. I want you to reweave the fabric of the world where it's ripping, tattered, and torn. I want you to go out, and I want you to meet their needs and fill their hearts so that once they have been touched by my hands and restored by my heart, that they can then go do the same thing."

ON FEB 3