

## Thursday, June 20

When considering the difference between disciples and apostles Pastor Jack suggested four points to ponder: First, we shouldn't confuse disciples with groupies. Second, Christians should follow Christ and do the work of ministry together. Third, we should always view ourselves as disciples who are always learning. Finally, as followers of Christ we should recognize that being an apostle is not for special Christians but for ordinary Christians gifted for a special time.

Being an apostle is a journey of self-discovery as one grows in his or her relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is a process of discovering and developing your gifts for ministry. It is matching those gifts for a particular ministry or mission. When that match is fulfilled, a disciple knows that he or she has entered the arena of apostleship!

In what ministry or mission could you enter the arena of apostleship? Pray that God will reveal this ministry or mission to you.

## Friday, June 21

Read Matthew 9:35-10:23. This long passage of scripture tells of Jesus' call to the disciples and the transformation of those twelve into apostles. It continues to warn those apostles of the difficulties of being in ministry.

The first thing Jesus asked of the disciples is to pray – “ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:38) Ministry is difficult enough without first seeking God's wisdom and guidance.

Prayer, meditation and Sabbath rest is necessary to be in effective ministry. You've been asked throughout this week to consider God's call to be in ministry. First things first! Make sure you connect with the “Lord of the harvest” and seek the necessary wisdom and guidance to be in ministry!

## Message Notes – June 16, 2024

### *That's Enough for Today!\**

- I. The work is never \_\_\_\_\_. There will always be ministry to be done, precisely because ministry is about \_\_\_\_\_ and making a difference in people's lives.
  - A. Jesus saw the crowds that would gather around him and they were harassed and \_\_\_\_\_, like sheep without a shepherd.
  - B. Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_ for them – he was moved by their difficulties and directionless lives.
  
- II. Jesus looked upon those lost souls and he recognized that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers were \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Then he gathered those twelve together, gave them \_\_\_\_\_ to be in ministry and sent them out to make a difference in the lives of those harassed and helpless people.
  - B. The twelve \_\_\_\_\_ were probably just as harassed and helpless as the rest of the people gathered around Jesus.
  - C. The question for us is “Do we see Jesus as our \_\_\_\_\_ – capable of guiding us in safety – as someone in whom we can put our full trust?”
  - D. Or do we see Jesus and Jesus' representative in this world as wanting something – primarily to \_\_\_\_\_ us out into the world to do the \_\_\_\_\_ of kingdom building and harvesting souls?
  - E. The answer lies in a subtle usage of words to describe those who followed \_\_\_\_\_.

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\* Scripture: Matthew 9:35-10:8 and Genesis 1:1-15

- III. We often use the terms \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ interchangeably, but there's a difference.
- Disciple simply means "somebody who \_\_\_\_\_ in and \_\_\_\_\_ the teachings of a leader."
  - Apostle means a "\_\_\_\_\_, "ambassador," or "\_\_\_\_\_ " — one sent out on a specific mission on behalf of another.
- IV. Now all of that is well and good as a lesson in \_\_\_\_\_ Testament terminology, but what's the point for us? I want to suggest four ideas.
- The first is that we shouldn't confuse disciples with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The second is that all of us who follow Jesus should do so \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Third, all of us who seek to follow Jesus need to always think of ourselves as \_\_\_\_\_, pupils of Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith.
  - Finally, we should recognize that apostleship is not something reserved for \_\_\_\_\_ Christians in ordinary times but for \_\_\_\_\_ Christians in special times.

## *Study Guide*

This study guide is designed for you to daily, throughout this next week, consider the lessons of today's message and delve further into scripture that will enhance your growth as a Christian.

### Monday, June 17

What elements of your work or home life are never done or finished? Does this frustrate you? How do you deal with the stress of unfinished work?

The work of ministry is never done. Jesus saw the crowds around him as harassed and helpless. He proclaimed that the harvest was plentiful but the laborers few. Do you recognize your own gifts to

become a laborer in Christ's Kingdom that the needs of the harassed and helpless can be met? Think about the needs of people in your community that you can help alleviate. Pray for God's guidance in meeting those needs.

### Tuesday, June 18

Read Matthew 9:35-38. When Jesus saw the harassed and helpless people he had compassion for them. Matthew described the crowd around Jesus "like sheep without a shepherd." Have you ever felt harassed and helpless – like a sheep without a shepherd?

Jesus was deeply moved by those without direction in their lives and wanted to provide guidance for them. Jesus called the disciples forward to first pray for laborers for the harvest and then to go out and share the good news and heal those in need.

There are two sides to this call from Christ. First, we need direction in our lives – to recognize Jesus as our shepherd – as the one who will give each of us direction. Second, we must respond to Christ's call to go out and continue his kingdom work – to be in ministry. Pray for direction in your life and consider the gifts you possess for ministry.

### Wednesday, June 19

Read Matthew 10:1-4. In this brief passage of scripture, Jesus calls together his "disciples" and sends them out as "apostles." Most of us would not have a problem being called a disciple - somebody who believes in and follows the teachings of a leader – but we might not view ourselves as apostles. Apostle means "delegate," "ambassador" or "messenger" — one sent out on a specific mission on behalf of another.

For what specific mission might God call you? For whom do you have compassion? For whom would it make sense to be a delegate, ambassador or messenger? Pray about being an apostle for a specific mission to which God may call you!