

Luke 9:1-10

I. Sending Out v1-6

9:1 And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. 2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. 3 And He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not even have two tunics apiece. 4 Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city. 5 And as for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." 6 Departing, they began going throughout the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

1. He called

9:1 And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.

2. He empowered

9:1 And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases.

- a. Over demons
- b. Over disease

3. He sent

2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

- a. To proclaim: to be a herald, to preach.
- b. To perform: healing and miracles.
- c. The two go together. It is not either or, but both and...Balance!

Jesus' plan and strategy for us is still the same: calling, empowering, and sending.

1. We have been called, empowered, and sent out

- a. Matt 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...*
- b. Mark 16:15 *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*
- c. Luke 24:46-47 *....repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*
- d. John 20:21 *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you*
- e. Acts 1:8 *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses...*

2. We have been called, empowered, and sent out **To proclaim**

Romans 10:14-15 *How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? 15 How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"*

3. To perform

- a. One the elements of our vision is “be the miracle”
- b. Matthew 25:31-46

II. Stirring Up v7-9

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was happening; and he was greatly perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead, 8 and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen again. 9 Herod said, “I myself had John beheaded; but who is this man about whom I hear such things?” And he kept trying to see Him.

God’s people have often been characterized by stirring things up.

1. Jeremiah stirred things up so much that he was captured and thrown into a cistern (septic tank)
2. Elijah was described by Ahab as a troubler of Israel.
3. The disciples troubled Herod with their performing of miracles and proclaiming their message.
 - a. Later they would throw an entire city into confusion!
 - b. Acts 16:20 *and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews*
 - c. And before it was over, be accused of upsetting the whole world.
 - d. Acts 17:6 *When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also*
5. Who do we trouble?
 - a. But if we stir up too much we will get a bad name with our community
 - b. If we really stir something up we will get in trouble with the government
 - c. If we really stir something up we may suffer!
 - d. So we work hard NOT to make a stir!
6. But if no one is being stirred up, then maybe our Christianity isn’t the same.

In David Platt’s latest book “Something needs to Change” he recounts a story by the missionary he was working with.

“One day, I was hiking through a nearby village. I hadn’t been here long, and it was my first time to ever be in that particular village. As I was hiking, all of a sudden a woman, maybe in her mid thirties, came running by me really fast. She startled me because she seemed out of control, and I could sense that something was wrong with her. She ran ahead though, and I lost sight of her.

A few minutes later the trail led me right next to where this woman’s house was apparently located. As I got near the house, I saw this same woman dart out of her front door. She had a crazed look on her face and a bottle in her hand, which I later found out was insecticide. She stood there in front of her door facing me as I walked toward her on the trail, and she started shouting. I stopped in my tracks, totally stunned and unsure of what was happening.

That is when the woman yelled in the local dialect, in a manner that seemed like she was possessed by something demonic, “This is your welcome to our villages,” and she took the bottle in her hand and started drinking it. I didn’t know what was in the bottle, but I immediately got concerned when her husband came running out of the house with their kids yelling, No! No! No! But by the time they got to her, she had swallowed almost everything in the bottle. At that point she started convulsing and gasping for breath. The husband started yelling for help, so I dropped my pack and ran straight to them. She seemed to be losing consciousness, and before long she wasn’t breathing. I started trying to revive her; but nothing was working. Within a matter of minutes, she was dead.

It was one of the worst moments of my entire life. To see a woman kill herself in front of her husband and children...and to do it because I came hiking into this village. I’d never been in this village and I’d never

met this woman. The first time I ever saw her was when she came running by me on the trail. That's when I knew that the physical battles of hunger and sickness in these villages pale in comparison to the spiritual battle for people's hearts and minds. I had to ask the question, was I ready for that kind of battle? (Platt, Something Needs to Change, pages 139-141)

1. Could it be that one of the reasons we don't stir up much is because we aren't really ready for that kind of battle?
2. Is it that we have no power?
3. Is it because we don't really care?

The disciples were sent out to stir up.

III. Celebrating v10

10 When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida.

1. Acts 13:1-3 *13:1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.*

2. Acts 14:25-28 *When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. 27 When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a long time with the disciples.*

3. They gathered together to send out and then regathered to celebrate
4. Let's be honest....what do we generally gather for
 - a. To get a sermon?
 - b. To get encouragement, entertainment, or to have our needs met?
 - c. Then we leave, go eat, and get back to the "real world" on Monday.
 - c. What a difference it would make if we met to celebrate what God did last week and to be sent out for another adventure this week.

Conclusion: What a difference it would make if we were known for being sent, causing a stir, and then recounting and celebrating what God has done. The fields are white for harvest!