

2026-06-14 ... 10am Morning Worship Sermon ... Revd Bev Jameson

Matthew 9.35-10.18

PRAYER

Father may these spoken words be faithful to the written word and lead us into the living word, Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen

SERMON

When I first became a Christian, my friend gave me a card with a small person battling to holding a large umbrella against the wind and the caption said *No one said it would be easy being a Christian*. It feels like that sometimes and I guess even the disciples may have felt like that sometimes

In our gospel reading this morning Jesus had been spending time going through the countryside, teaching, preaching, healing performing miracles, but the demand was so great it was too much for one man, even if that man was God incarnate on earth. He needed helpers Jesus sends out his followers to spread the good news of his ministry When he called the twelve, he gave them power and authority. It is quite a way to begin Chapter 10 and I suppose in a way it began a chapter of the disciple's lives. Jesus had the authority to give those men the power he possessed from God. Each of the disciples is named in turn, so important is this appointment of power and authority. Jesus then goes on to give them a list of instructions about the immediate brief and temporary mission they are to undertake, directions for the ongoing ministry and the service of Christ in its widest sense - phew no pressure then not an easy task.

This short mission is limited to Jews in Judea and Jerusalem not straying into Samaria or anywhere that is gentile homelands. We know this is only a temporary restriction as Jesus frequently goes beyond Jews into all people of every nation – as Jesus commands them ultimately to preach the gospel to the Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the whole world. But for now the focus was on God's people. The disciples' message is that of Jesus and their ministry parallels his. In effect they are his hands his feet his voice in that place

Their mission consists of both preaching and healing, the two go together to compliment the good news Jesus brings but the act of healing was more than just a kindness to those who are sick – it was a proclamation that these miracles were from God and performed from God Via Jesus. The preaching and the healing mirror the preaching and the healing performed by Jesus in his own ministry. Their mission is an extension of his, for which they have his authority to undertake Their ministry is also without financial gain, trusting that God will provide. Not an easy thing to do as you set out with nothing There will be people to help them but if they encounter those who do not, they are to shake the dust from their feet.

They are disciples in a hostile environment, where they face ridicule, rejection and even physical violence they are as vulnerable as sheep among wolves they need to be shrewd without being harmful, innocent without being gullible. Not an easy task .

It is quite a commission but we know it is not the last, we know before Jesus left them to go to heaven, he commissioned all kinds of followers Matthew 28:19-20 ***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you***

always, to the end of the age He has been commissioning his followers for over 2000 years, he has commissioned you and I

The disciples were involved in the greatest work in the world and so are we this day and every day We are his hands, his feet and his voice in this secular world God uses us through Jesus when we let His power flow through us. He gives us power but does not take over our will, reasoning and emotions. We still have charge over our will power, our ability to reason and can be happy or sad as we choose to be. We are to be in complete trust that He will bring about his will and show His power through us. He does not send us power with no purpose. As we trust Him, we will see His power work in and through us to touch others and ourselves with His love.

In our secular world today it can feel as if we are disciples in a hostile environment facing ridicule and abuse because of our belief in Jesus. We too need to be shrewd without being harmful, innocent without being gullible – not an easy thing to do. Through whatever opposition and scorn we may face, we are preaching and helping others with Jesus' guidance and protection in what we say and what we do, how we behave towards one another. Our mission is an extension of Jesus mission, for which we have Jesus' authority to undertake. We will meet those who listen but perhaps sometimes we have to shake the dust from our feet when we meet those who do not listen, who are scornful, who laugh at us for believing and ridicule our way of life.

Our commission is as valid today and every day to come as it was to the disciples 2000 years ago. It may be hard for us in our social life, work life, family life to share the good news of Jesus Christ It may seem we are a small person battling to holding a large umbrella against the wind of the secular world's values, the conflicts, the bullying, the ridicule and abuse but no one said it would be easy being a Christian. Jesus said And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age What we do we do in his strength with his support and guidance I pray we have the courage the strength and the wisdom to follow that commission always

AMEN