

**“Seventy Are Sent - Are You One?”**

Today we look at the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke, and over the next couple of weeks will be going through sections of this 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter. This week reading, Jesus sending out the 70, next week reading the Good Samaritan, and the following week Jesus will visit Mary and Martha. Stories we may, or may not know by heart. And maybe say, oh, that one again. But always good to hear the Gospel. Never know when we might find a nugget to tuck into our spiritual purse.

The first reading today was from the Epistle of Galatians that Paul gave to them and to us. It was the first book he wrote, sometime between 48 - 55 AD. At the time, the Jews greatly outnumbered the Gentiles in these early churches, and such was the case in Galatia: so many questions and issues arose when these non-Jews came into the founding ‘Christian’ churches. The Judaizers, a group of Jewish believers, follow Paul around as he travels. They insist that the Gentile believers must submit to circumcision and the laws of Moses in order to be saved. This book of Galatians is Paul’s responds to this error in their teaching. The Law of the past, and the good works was not a condition of salvation, but the fruit of it. Salvation is a gift of grace, wholly dependent upon faith in Jesus Christ. Galatians has been called the ‘Magna Charta’ of the Church, *‘a Spiritual Freedom for the whole world and for all time.’* ‘quote – Charles R. Erdman

We think Jesus did his advance work in the towns and countryside he passed through by sowing the seed of the gospel Good News. It was now time to send out more disciples. He had already sent the 12 out earlier, to prepare where he would be led to, and help open people to his message. Now he was sending out more. His work was increasing, time was short.

Jesus always travelled light. He did not carry extra clothes, food or other items, like we might when we go on a trip. Talking with a friend a couple of weeks ago, she mentioned that she didn’t like having to pack. And shucks, you just can’t take your wardrobe with you every time, cause “you never know when you will need something.....” seems to be a good motto.

The scriptures today make tough thinking..... do we carry too much baggage, and always worrying if we are doing the right thing, the right way, and at the right time. **Are we open to the Spirit to guide us, as these disciples seemed to be.** They had strong faith..... do we..... They had Jesus to encourage them, and direct gospel teachings.... We have the Holy Spirit.

So how do we open to the Holy Spirit, and hear, and see, and listen? Might be a few questions we can think about.... God has a plan for us, and speaks through the Holy Spirit. **SO.....**

**1. How do we know we are being led by the Spirit.** .. *We know that we are being led by the Spirit when we listen to the Spirit and do as instructed. The Spirit speaks to us in words that are inspired and are recorded in Scripture. The Spirit never leads anyone to say or do anything that is contrary to the Word of God, given to us.*

**2. How to know if the Holy Spirit is talking to you.** ----- *Sometimes we may sense the Spirit speaking to us through a gentle conviction. Other times by prompting us in a specific way to*

*take action, say something, or accept the truth being revealing. The Spirit often gives us a deep sense of peace about our circumstances, decisions, or courses of action.*

**3. How to tell if the Holy Spirit is guiding you.....** *During our personal time with the Lord, we will likely not hear an audible voice when the Holy Spirit “speaks” to us. What we will sense is a strong leading to do something. Or we might feel strongly about going in a certain direction. The Holy Spirit wants to show us God's plans and purposes for our lives.*

**4. How to walk or be with the Holy Spirit every day. ....** *It involves regular prayer, reading the Bible, and being open to the Spirit's guidance. It'll be a daily decision to surrender our will to God and let the Spirit lead us. This regular daily practice brings us closer to God and helps us live out our faith in practical ways.*

**5. How do I know my thoughts are mine or from the Holy Spirit. ...** *The best way to discern when we are hearing from the Holy Spirit—including when speaking through our intuition—is the reality of peace in our hearts. Running on our own instinct is often because of fear and typically produces fear, worry, and doubt. When we are aligned with God's will, the Spirit gives us peace.*

Well, Jesus sent out the next 70 disciples today in this Luke reading. He calls them up, and gives them their walking instructions, (no money, no extra shoes, no GPS, no food, no hotel reservations and especially, no internet. (their internet is prayer. The best kind.), and Jesus sends them out. All these things that weigh them down, and he wants them to travel light. Jesus reassures them that he has given them the power and the authority to fulfill their mission. Take only the Good News, trust in the hospitality that is offered, and not to have resentment even if they are not welcomed!

What a powerful commissioning! But what does that mean for us? Think of our ministry as individuals and as a congregation. How are we called to go forth and minister to others? Who is called? Who responds? How do we do it? Do we have expectations that might weigh us down..... fears, pride or support from others in the church community? How can we lighten the load by sharing the work that only a few might be doing? How do we let go of those things not necessary, to allow us to live abundantly? We rely on the Spirit to lead us, and be open. Perhaps we can depend on our faith.

Faith.....hmmmm..... What is it? The faith angle talks about salvation. In a broad statement, Salvation is available to all, but it is effective in those who have faith. In other words, faith is the means by which a person receives salvation. People cannot earn salvation by their own efforts, no matter how good they may be. They must trust completely in Christ for their salvation. Not like an intellectual acknowledgement of certain facts, but a belief where they turn to Christ with a whole heart. To trust in Jesus Christ and all that he has done through his life, death on the cross and resurrection on the third day. To have faith is this belief.

You may be waiting to board an aircraft and may believe that it will fly, and may even understand how it flies, but that belief will not take you to your destination. You must exercise faith in the aircraft by walking on to it. You commit yourself to it, trust in it, and rely upon it.

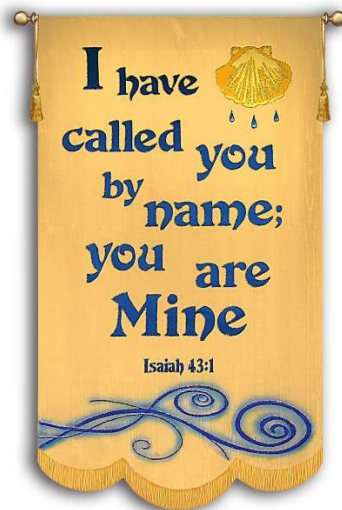
If you want to get where you are going you need to. That is what the Bible means by faith. Faith in Christ means commitment to him. It takes people out of themselves and puts them into Christ. (Rom 3:22, Gal 2: 20-21)

Yet faith itself does not save. It simply the means by which sinners accept the salvation that Christ offers. Salvation is not a reward for faith; it is a gift that no one deserves, it is God's gift of grace, meaning its given freely, no strings, and it can be received by faith. (Rom 3:25, 5:15)

When you walk on that aircraft, you have not done anything to boast about. The power to get you to your destination lies in the aircraft, not in you, and you can do no more than put your trust in it. Faith is not the trying but the ceasing from your own efforts. It is not doing, but relying on what Christ has done. It is not feeling but accepting God's promises are true and trusting them. (Rom. 4:16; 10:4-5)

So when you are travelling the dusty roads, shoulder to shoulder with the 70 followers that Jesus sent out, remember who walks the road with you, encouraging and loving you on. And when you come back with the others, and tell about your experiences, you will be so happy to be home in the Lord, and loving and caring for those the Lord has put and will continue to put in your path. And as Luke 10:20 states..... <sup>20</sup> However, the important thing is not that you where just successful, **but that your names are registered as citizens of heaven."**

**Then .....Paul blesses the Galatians and us .... then today sends us on our way..** <sup>16</sup> May God's mercy and peace be upon all of you who live by this principle and upon those everywhere who are really God's own.<sup>18</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Sincerely, Paul. Amen.



## **Scripture Readings – July 6, 2025 – for Little Current UCPC**

### **Galatians 6:1-6 and Galatians 6: 7-16 - NRSV - Bear One Another's Burdens**

**6** My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. <sup>4</sup> All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. <sup>5</sup> For all must carry their own loads.

<sup>6</sup> Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup> If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup> So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

### **Final Admonitions and Benediction**

<sup>11</sup> See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! <sup>12</sup> It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh who try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup> Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. <sup>14</sup> May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which<sup>[a]</sup> the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything, but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup> As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

### **Luke 10:1-11 & 16-20 - The Mission of the Seventy-Two**

**10** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. <sup>3</sup> Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. <sup>4</sup> Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. <sup>5</sup> Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' <sup>6</sup> And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. <sup>8</sup> Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; <sup>9</sup> cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

<sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

### **The Return of the Seventy-Two**

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" <sup>18</sup> He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. <sup>19</sup> Indeed, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

May God's spirit shape our understanding of these words.

**And may they awaken in our hearts.**