

Pastor A. David Anglada
Sermon Outline
"God's Dream for the Church" Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]
Grace Lutheran Church and School
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2nd Sunday after Pentecost

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." 1 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. 2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. 5 These twelve following instructions: "Go Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, 6 but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has raised the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; no gold, or silver, or copper give without payment. [9 Take in your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. 11 Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. 15 Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. 16 "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. 19 When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; 20 for it is not you who



21 speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; 22 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.]

Prayer for Illumination:

We thank you for the life and ministry of Jesus and the mission of the apostles. We pray that we may be faithful to your covenant and that we may answer with Israel of old, "All that the Lord has spoken we do. "We ask that we may continue as your possession and be to you as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. Amen.

I would like to ask you a question, what are your dreams for your life?
Second question, what is God's dream for your life?
Thirdly, what is God's dream for our congregation?

In our assigned gospel text today, known as Jesus' missionary sermon. Jesus calls the twelve disciples to follow Him, but equally important Jesus' authorizes the twelve disciples to share in the work of preaching/proclaiming that the Kingdom of heaven has come near.

Before Jesus commissions the twelve disciples to share in his work, Matthew the gospel writer wants to make sure that his followers identified the basics strands in what Jesus set out to do:

The first Jesus set out to teach (Matthew 4:23)

Jesus went through Galilee, teaching in their synagogues.

Secondly, Jesus set out to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Secondly, Jesus set out to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom-He say's your sins are forgiven. Thirdly, Jesus set out to cure the sick.

Matthew, the gospel writer, informs us that Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. It appears to me that Jesus understands compassion, both emotionally and intellectually. "They were like a sheep without shepherd caring for them." Jesus was moved with compassion, because the community He was ministering too were both poor and the oppressed. Likewise, they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Afterward, we hear Jesus making an urgent plea to his disciples, "the harvest is ready" let us listen to the words Jesus says regarding the harvest. **"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."**

People of God this is an urgent plea; we must take care of the harvest ASP. We have no time to waste; if we do not take care of crops, we will lose them. Jesus uses an illustration that is familiar to the community he was reaching out to; furthermore, he is contextual. Jesus was revealing his dreams with his followers.

After his short homily Jesus, calls the disciples to follow him on a missionary journey.

Jesus calls his disciples by name.

Peter-Petros-solid rock the one who denies Jesus, when Jesus is arrested. Tomas, the one who does not believe the words of the other disciples, Thomas refused to believe until he comes face to face with Jesus.

Matthew, the tax collector, who was known for raising taxes on poor people

But when Matthew meets-face to face, Jesus turned him around. From being hated by people to be liked by people.

Let us take James and John, two brothers, one was known as quick temper and the other with his issues. Simon, who was a zealot, an enemy of Rome.

He even calls Judas to follow him and the other disciples:

What is so amazing? Is that Jesus called individuals who were not perfect, men who were broken individuals. Men who were running from their mere existence.

What the disciples have in common was that they were human beings who were not perfect. They fail short of perfection

Yet, Jesus finds it fit to call them to serve during their life's challenges and difficulties.

Jesus calls wounded healers.

Christ shared his dream with them.

The dream Jesus shared with them is:

First and foremost, the disciples are sent in pairs. Most important, they are not solo acts; they are commissioned to enter the world to work in collaboration with others.

Think about this the Lone Ranger had to Danto, who accompany him, especially when he needed a hand.

God's Dream for the church:

To be compassionate for the least of these

To bring healing over illness and evilness in the world.

To cure the sick

To raise the dead

To bring a word of salvation

To proclaim Good News

To be depended on God himself

To go into the world with a humble spirit

God will place his words in your lips

You are being sent into difficult situations

You will be persecuted for my sake, Jesus tells them.

You are to be utterly dependent on God for everything.

What is essential for us to remember is that our blessed Lord Jesus needs help expanding his message of Good News.

You will also observe with me that Matthew, the Gospel writer, is sharing with his audience four movements of leadership. Modeling leadership, viewing the world compassionately, making a timely response, and sending out empowered leaders:¹ Here is what Jesus was teaching his disciples: I do, you watch, I do, you help, you do, I help. And you do, I watch.

Please note, that while the Gospel of Matthew only speaks of men in this chapter, the New Testament informs us that Jesus called other disciples, which included women.

What is God's Dream for the Church?

The dream for the Church is to bring a good word of healing to individuals that need physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. It does take much energy to bring Good News and a word of healing for individuals who are in need to hear Good News in their lives.

God is calling us to become an ensemble of care.

Several days ago, a friend of mine who lives in Florida came to my thoughts throughout the day. Finally, I decided to call him.

I said to my good friend, I am calling to see how you are doing. After several minutes of talking, he said the following, David, thank you I need to talk I needed to hear that everything is going to be alright. I just need to hear the word of Good News.

What is God's dream for the Church?

God's dream is to be a spiritual presence among individuals that are going through a difficult time. Sometimes all we need is to be present without saying much. Sometimes people just need our presence nothing more, nothing less.

Several years ago, my Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor said to me "David, at times we talk to too much, and all people need from us is our accompaniment, not our words or recommendations." So, I said, I do not understand, she replied by saying, "David you talk too much, become a listening presence when you meet with patients or with their families." Yes, at times we talk too much, most people need a good listener, not our personal recommendations or solutions.

What is God dream for the Church?

We are living in an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, we are increasing separating from each other.

People of God, God dream is for us to be united, living together in harmony. I know it is difficult, but we can build new bridges of hope for our humanity.

God's dream for us to live in harmony and to build bridges of communication with each other. Our gospel text contains an urgency with it, God is calling us NOW, TODAY, THE HARVEST IS READY, Now is the Time!

In our assigned gospel lesson for today, Jesus empowered the disciples to carry out his ministry. Today, Christ is calling and authorizing us to expand His ministry.

To Be a voice of healing, to be a caring voice in the world, to be present for people who need our accompaniment.

To work collaboratively with each other. To be a voice for Good News and reconciliation in our world today. I am confident that the Good News of the Gospel can bring us together as one people. And bring us together as children of God.

Matthews's gospel informs us, "that the herd of sheep was being harassed and helpless," they were powerless, to change their own lot, and there was no one willing to step up and show them the way.

Maybe God is calling us to help people who are harassed and helpless. What if we help seniors, children, and helpless teenagers who need us to help them and to be their advocates. I am confident that this is God's Dream for the Church.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD:

Lord, grant us wisdom and compassion as we pursue your heart and dream for Grace Lutheran Church and reconciliation with our sisters and brothers within the church body. Give us open minds and open hearts. Show us where we need to be more Christlike. Lord, help us to discern those things that divide us, and help us bring them to light. Use us as vessels of your Holy Spirit so we may be your hands and feet to spread your dream for the reconciliation of your children. Illuminate for us, Lord, the path to reconciliation, and help us to look at our hearts and thoughts. Equip us to be bridge builders for your Kingdom. In Jesus's name we pray, amen.²

Thank you for joining us today, we hope you will be able joining us this morning at 10am for community virtual gathering, to share our stories of hope and hear words of encouragement

Please go to www.glcas.org

Remember God loves you; God cares for you.

¹ Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson, ed. A Feasting on The Word Commentary-Feasting on the Gospels, Matthew, Volume I. (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 248-250.

² (Prayer by Manijeh Huereca, with additions by Pastor David Anglada) Latasha Morrison, Be the Bridge-Pursing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation (Colorado Springs: Waterbrook, 2019), 209.