



Many of us are tempted to give up sharing our faith. Secular society frowns upon it and we often see little fruit. Luke 10v1-24 gives us great inspiration and hope.

1 – Believe ...that the harvest is ready and it's huge (v1-2)

After a rocky start, in 10v1 we finally meet lots of followers! Jesus reveals that the problem is not demand (as we tend to think) but supply – there are many out there who will believe; it is the people to tell them who are lacking. We can be confident of this, despite appearances, because the Lord of the harvest tells us!

2 – Pray ...because the harvest is ready and it's huge (v1-2)

Jesus' call to action is first a call to prayer. This is because I, on my own, am not the solution to the Great Commission. A much bigger answer is needed than any one fruit-picker. We must ask God to recruit a whole team. This is challenging for us 'doers' but is also a great relief as we face our sin, weakness and limitation.

3 – Go ...because the harvest is ready and it's huge (v3-4)

Jesus sends his disciples ahead of him to the Galilean towns he will travel through. He tells them to crack on with the work, to go reliant on him not upon their own resources, and to look for those who will receive their message.

4 – Be prepared ...for welcome and rejection (v5-12)

Much of Jesus' instruction focuses on the reception these disciples will receive, and how they should act in response to it. Jesus particularly seems to focus on the *negative* reactions they will receive (v6b, 10-12).

In sombre tones, he warns in v13-15 that those who know more of the gospel but still reject it will be judged more harshly. In v16 he warns that to reject his messengers is to reject him.

5 – Rejoice ...over your salvation not your success (v17-24)

We skip ahead to the return of these excited disciples post-mission in v17. Jesus affirms that this is a spiritual battle and that they have been given authority over Satan and his forces (v19). But he urges them to place their joy and confidence in *what God has done in them*, in the past, not in what he is doing *through* them in the present. They are to “rejoice that [y]our names are written in heaven” (v20).

Jesus then rejoices himself, v21, in what God has done for these disciples: revealing himself to them (v21-22) and enabling them to see what prophets and kings before them longed to see (v23-24). We end, not with a focus upon these disciples and upon what they have done and will do for God, but with our eyes clearly fixed upon God and what *he* has done for them. Praise the Lord!

Here are a few questions you might want to use...

1. Do you think what Jesus says in v2 still applies today? Why/why not?
→ If it does, why do we find v2 it so hard to believe, and why is it such good news?
2. Why do you think Jesus goes to prayer before he goes to 'action' in his application in v2? How can we apply that command personally and as a church?
3. What does it look like for you in this season to go and proclaim the kingdom?
→ What could it look like for you in the future?
4. Why do you think Jesus spends so much time talking about how the disciples will be rejected and how bad that is?
5. How are you doing on balancing persevering with loved ones who've heard the gospel before and not responded and looking for and pursuing the hungry?
→ Who might be hungry in our community/city at this time?
6. Why is it so tempting to rejoice in our success? Why is it so important that we instead rejoice over our salvation? How does v21-24 fit with what v1-20?