



**Unit 1: You on Mission**

**Sermon Series Title:** The Heart of a Disciple-Maker

**Sermon 2:** Conviction of a Disciple-Maker

**Bible Passage:** Luke 10:1-3, 5-9

**Background/Context**

Luke, the writer of this gospel, gives an account of Jesus' commissioning of the seventy-two. Within this account, the reader is able to understand the passion Jesus had for disciple-making. He spent time creating a group dynamic that would help the twelve disciples learn and grow in their training. In addition to this relational environment, Jesus was intentional in His teaching and training. He taught the disciples to pray, worship, serve, instruct, and give. In this passage, Jesus shows that "classroom time" was over for the disciples, and now He needed to place them in the "harvest field" to fish for human souls.

**A. Embrace the Conditions**  
**(Luke 10:1-2a)**

Keeping true to His promise in Matthew 4:19 to make fishers of men, Jesus sent out His disciples to help them gain experience in making disciples. As Jesus sent out seventy disciples two by two, He gave them a snapshot of their current situation by comparing lost men and women's souls to a harvest in a field. This analogy showed the great potential to reach unsaved individuals with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus told them that the "harvest is abundant" which means that sinners are ready to respond to the gospel. The conditions may have appeared to be hopeless, but the omniscient God said that sinners are ready to give their lives to God.

Despite the abundance of individuals ready to receive the good news, Jesus explained to His seventy-two followers that "the workers are few." Men and women are needed to go into the mission fields and bring in the harvest. The church community needs to understand that real laborers, real disciple-makers are few. Many churches are filled with "pew" members, but pew members are not needed. Disciple-makers are needed and required. In order to move forward as a missionary of Christ, you must understand that you may feel alone. You might find yourself working in the midst of an over abundance of unsaved individuals. Don't be discouraged. You must resolve in your heart, "I'll go if I have to go by myself." A disciple-maker understands and embraces the abundant harvest even when laborers are few. Instead of focusing on the lack of help, the saint focuses on the harvest.

**Application Point:** As believers, it's sometimes easy to live in a vacuum. When we first accept Christ's gift of salvation, we may separate from those that could hinder our Christian walk. Yet, we must learn to balance this practice with the mission of making disciples. Who in your family, circle of influence, at your place of employment, in your community, needs to hear the good news of Jesus from you? Embrace the conditions and reach out to them.

## **B. Enquire Christ (Luke 10:2b)**

Understanding the shortage of laborers moves the disciple-maker to pray to enquire the Lord. The text says, “Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest” (v. 2). This shows the importance of prayer in missions. The Bible declares that we must “pray always and not give up” (Luke 18:1); that “You do not have because you do not ask” (Jas. 4:2), and that you must “present your requests to God” (Phil. 4:6). Through prayer, believers rely on the Lord to help fulfill their assigned tasks. The disciple-maker is convinced in the power of prayer. Why? The answer is because God is the source of our witnessing strength.

Praying for laborers may not always bring the results we expect. Everyone can harvest this field. God selects and sends out workers. These workers may not be the ones you would have selected. But, God deems them worthy! The Pharisee’s viewed the twelve disciples as “uneducated and untrained men” (Acts 4:13). However, Paul declared not many wise, powerful, or noble are called (1 Cor. 1:26). God’s people solicit help from Him to complete their mission. We must work with whomever God sends. We cannot be “choosey” about the economic, education, or spiritual level of those whom God selects.

**Application Point:** When have you allowed your personal preferences to get in the way of God’s answer to prayer? God saves all types of people in order to reach all types of people. The Lord can use each person’s unique background to reach people with the gospel of Christ.

## **C. Engage the Crop (Luke 10:3, 5-9)**

As believers, we do not send ourselves out. We are not in charge. Rather, we are sent out by the Master. Jesus proved this when he gave His followers the following instructions, “Now go.” Just like a good farmer in the midst of the harvest, he has no time to delay. He must engage the crop. But one may say that the field is difficult because of the worldly mindset. Yes, the world is hostile toward the Christian faith. Yes, people are trying to silence God’s Word. Yes, saints are being persecuted for their faith. Yes, conditions may challenge us, and we might even see ourselves as defenseless lambs among angry wolves. Yet, when conditions are difficult, the disciple-maker is commanded to carry out God’s instructions.

Recognize that God Almighty is in charge. He is the all-wise, all-knowing, all-powerful God. His disciples can’t remain still when He says go, nor can they move when He says remain still. Why? A disciple is bought with the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 6:20). We belong to Him. Therefore, we must obey when we are commanded to say “peace to this household,” “heal the sick,” and say “The kingdom of God has come near.” When we are instructed to engage family, friends, and foes, we must obey. When we are called to engage our neighborhoods, marketplaces, workplaces, and places of leisure, we must surrender to His voice. Engaging the crop is the disciple-maker’s conviction.

**Application Point:** What are some excuses you use to avoid engaging the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ? What Bible verses would you call on to help you combat such excuses?

Engaging the unsaved and unchurched in our homes, on our jobs, and in our neighborhoods is the responsibility of every believer. How responsible are you in carrying out the task?