



One Church, Regional Impact!

Pastor Jeff Meyer

On April 19th at our Regional Impact Gathering in Verona, a small group of us spent some time considering Luke 10:1-4. This is what we discovered. I call it Jesus' "5 at 5."

¹ *The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit.* ² *These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."* ³ *Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves.* ⁴ *Don't take any money with you, nor a traveler's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don't stop to greet anyone on the road.* Luke 10:1-4

Here's the **reality** of our work:

- 1) The harvest is great!
- 2) Workers are few!
- 3) The Lord is in charge of the harvest!
- 4) The "fields" belong to Him.
- 5) The "fields" are our neighborhoods, our community.

Here's what our **responsibilities** are as we attempt to live missionally:

- 1) Pray, asking the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers into Him. **Vs. 2a**
- 2) Go...NOW!! **vs. 3a**
- 3) Remember, He sends **you** and it's hard work! It's dangerous work! **Vs. 3 (lambs among wolves)**
- 4) Think "next!", not "ultimatel!" Live with people one day at a time, trusting in His provision! **Vs. 4a (Don't take any money with you, nor a traveler's bag, nor an extra pair of sandals.)**

5) Avoid distractions and distracting activities. **Vs. 4b (Don't stop to greet anyone on the road.)**

The key to bringing in the harvest, according to Jesus, is workers who are raised up as a result of prayer (Luke 10:2). **The need is not a greater harvest, but for more workers to be sent out into the harvest.** The reaching of more people and the planting of a presence in more regions, according to Jesus, is a worker issue. And, here's a truth that is important for us to remember: **The workers are IN the harvest!**

Jesus gives us a description of the harvest. It is plentiful. And then He gives us a prescription. That is prayer. All Jesus tells us to do is pray. The reason? The need is for workers to be sent out into the harvest, and God is the one who raises up the workers. We are not in the creation business. Only God is. We can develop workers once they are raised up, but we cannot create them. Only God can.

As a result of our time with Jesus on the 19th, we have made a commitment to gather weekly in between our Regional Impact Gatherings to pray to the Lord of the Harvest for more workers!

Perhaps we could make the same commitment in Fitchburg.

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