



Notices:

Hey wonderful small group leaders, here are a few notices to share with your group!

Baptisms // Baptisms are happening at Easter Sunday, please go to bvc.so/baptisms to register your interest. Deadline is 15th March

Equip & Ignite // Equip and Ignite is a four-week course to help you step into a life of encounter with Jesus, growing in praying for people and releasing the kingdom outside the walls of the church. Head to bvc.so/equip-ignite

Cantonese Alpha Course // We will have the Cantonese Alpha in both South and City centre sites starting on the 12th of March. Head to bvc.so/HKalphaCity or bvc.so/HKalphaSouth to sign up.

The Clash of Kingdoms – The Mission of the Kingdom

Date: Sunday 27th February 2023

Speaker: Pete Spafford (South) & Adam Pipe (Central)

Key Verses: Matthew 9:35 – 10:13

Talk Summary:

1. The Problem 9:35-38 Jesus is on a ministry tour around the towns and villages of Galilee and everywhere he goes he is teaching, preaching and demonstrating the Kingdom of God. How does Jesus demonstrate the Kingdom of God? verse 35 tells us by *'healing every disease and sickness'*.

Sickness is not part of God's purpose and God's Kingdom and when his kingdom comes in all its fullness all sickness and ill-health will be gone. Verse 36 tells us that when Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion on them. Compassion is more than merely feeling sorry for someone. The Greek word here is *splanchnizomai* which means to be moved in your guts, in your bowels, which are the seat of your emotions. **Compassion is a revelation of God's heart for something or someone that moves you to action.** God wants to use us as his hands and arms in reaching out to pour his compassion on hurting and needy people. The people were (36) '*harassed and helpless*' If we look at the world around us, if we turn on social media, if we talk to our friends and neighbours we can see that people are harassed, worried, dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus says in verse 37 look there is a plentiful harvest, there are people who are ripe for the Kingdom of God, but more workers are needed. Jesus asks his disciples to pray for more labourers. I don't think that they realised that they were the labourers they were praying for. **Sometimes we are God's answer to our own prayers!**

2. **The People 10:1-4.** Jesus takes action to see that the need is met by authorising and sending out the disciples as his representatives. Jesus gives the disciples authority (10:1). As disciples of Jesus we too have been given that authority. We need to stand on our identity in Christ (Eph 2:10). Jesus now gives the disciples the title 'apostles' which means 'sent one'. **You are God's ambassador.** But the good news is that Jesus doesn't choose only the best and the brightest to be his ambassadors he uses ordinary people like you and me (see the list of the 12 in 10:2-4). When we struggle with whether we are adequate to carry out God's purposes in the world we can remember that the first ambassadors Jesus called were wholly inadequate. God especially uses those who recognise their own inadequacy.

3. **The Programme 10:5-13.** From verse 5 we have Jesus' instruction to his disciples his mission message. **Start where you are! (10:5)** Jesus is calling us to start where we are. Where has God put you? Where is your Galilee today? your workplace, your University, your friends, your neighbourhood, your family. Although Matthew records at the end of his gospel, in Chapter 28, that we are to take the good news of the Kingdom to the whole world. Jesus gives them a message: the Kingdom of heaven is at hand (or come near). And this message of the Kingdom is our message too. When Jesus gives them this message in verse 7 he says '*As you go*' the tense there is the *present active imperative* tense. The message to the first apostles was to proclaim and go on proclaiming the Kingdom of God. It is a continuous action. They were to do the stuff! The apostles message was to be accompanied by action. In verses 9 & 10 Jesus tells the twelve that they are not to take provision for the journey. No staff to protect them, not even a copper coin. Jesus wanted the apostles to be totally dependent upon God. Jesus was calling his disciples to step out in faith

and as Wimber used to say faith is spelt 'R-I-S-K'. Today God is calling us to take a step of faith, a step of dependence upon him as agents of his kingdom.

Conclusion – Agents of God's Shalom. In verse 12 & 13 Jesus instructs the apostles to give the households they enter their greeting. At that time the Jewish greeting was '*Shalom*' peace be with you. This was a blessing that the favour of God would rest upon someone and their household. Today God is calling us to be his agents of shalom to bring that blessing of God's peace to a harassed and hurting world.

Optional Video: John Wimber on Doing the Stuff (3 mins) <https://youtu.be/U7wLM77curg>

Resource from the talk: Operation World App: <https://operationworld.org/get-involved/prayer-app/>

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)

1. What stood out to you from the talk on Sunday?
2. Share experiences where you have seen Jesus' healing power in action.
3. Are there groups of people or issues where you find you are moved with compassion to take action?
4. Putty Putnam says 'Identity is the bedrock of power evangelism. Once you know who you are, you are empowered to give away to others.' why is so important to be secure in our identity in Christ?
5. In what ways are we God's ambassadors?
6. How does the list of the 12 disciples give us hope?
7. Jesus told his disciples to go to Galilee. Where is our Galilee? Our mission field where God has put us at the moment.
8. In ways are we seeking to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom to those around us?
9. John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard movement, said 'The kingdom is about doing just as much as teaching. If you aren't doing the works of the kingdom the message isn't complete. I pray the Vineyard never stops taking the risks of the kingdom.' Discuss this as a group. Where is God calling us to take risks of faith for the Kingdom?

Worship

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship