



Dreaming with Clarity

Date: July 19, 2020

Big Question: What would it be like to be clear about the direction of your life?

Text: Matthew 13:23

- 23 But he who received seed on the good ground is **he who hears the word and understands it**, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

I. Jesus Gave the Disciples Clear Assignments

Since the disciples "received without payment," they were also to "give without payment" (Matt 10:8b). Their identity was to be "sheep among wolves . . . wise as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matt 10:16). All they took with them was the integrity of Christ's mission and their trust in its effect—they had among themselves "no gold, or silver, or copper in [their] belts, no bag for [their] journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff" (Matt 10:9). For these early followers, mission clearly involved trust, risk, and obedience to Jesus' commands.

Source: Heuser, Roger. *Leading the Congregation* (p. 227). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

II. Jesus Gave the Disciples Seven Clear Insights About Their Assignments

1. Go help the hurting (Matthew 10:1)

- 10 And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, **to cast them out**, and **to heal all kinds of sickness** and all kinds of disease.

2. Go after people who you have easy access to, then expand (Matthew 10:5-6)

- 5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: **“Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

Note: Jesus understood the **racial realities** he had to manage. (cp. Acts: 10-12, & 15)

3. Go and help the willing (Matthew 10:11-15)

- Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire **who in it is worthy**, and stay there till you go out. 12 And when you go into a household, greet it. 13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And **whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.** 15 Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!



4. Go knowing it will be dangerous and uncomfortable (Matthew 10:16-17)

- 16 “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of **wolves**. Therefore be wise as **serpents** and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men, for **they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues**.

5. Go knowing you will be speechless sometimes (Matthew 10:19-20)

- 19 But when they deliver you up, **do not worry about how or what you should speak**. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for **it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you**

6. Go knowing there will be family betrayal (Matthew 10:19-22)

- 21 “Now **brother will deliver up brother** to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. 22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

7. Go knowing there will be times when you must run (Matthew 10:23-31)

A. There will be persecution:

- 23 **When they persecute you in this city, flee to another**. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

B. There will be name calling

- 24 “**A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master**. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If **they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!** 26 Therefore **do not fear them**. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

C. You will be tempted to fear physical dangers

- 27 “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. 28 And **do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul**. But rather **fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**.

D. Remember you are valuable

- 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many



Closing Question: What are you clear about in this season of your life?

**III. Five Things I Am More Clear About
In My Personal Life Assignment**

1. Things can change without much notice
2. People are not always as mature as I thought they were
3. Changing the models I live by can greatly improve the quality of my life
4. Everybody cannot think certain thoughts so they will never make certain changes
5. I must learn to manage boredom and embrace my personal life alone sometimes

Next Series July 26, 2020: Where Shall We Go From Here?

1. Where Have We Been?
2. Where Are We Now?
3. Where Are We Going?