



Life Group Study Notes

“When God Speaks”

Pastor James Lowe - November 12, 2017

Warm up questions (10-15 mins)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What are some things you believe God has spoken to you?
- How do you respond when God speaks?
- What are some things you have had to change as a result of hearing God speak?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Cost of hearing God’s word

Luke 10:1-3: *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.*

Do you see yourself as a minister? Often times when we read Scripture we focus on the twelve disciples. This causes us to miss out on the reality that there were more than just Jesus and the twelve disciples that God used in the scriptures. In Luke 10:1 we see that Jesus actually sent out seventy-two laborers into the harvest field. He then comments, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...” (Luke 10:2 ESV). Jesus knew that seventy-two people would not be enough to harvest the fields God had prepared. Everywhere we look, around our city, in our jobs, and in our own lives we can see that the harvest is all around us. Do you see yourself as one of God’s sent ones?

Often times when we hear God’s word our response is just to receive it, because God is going to accomplish His word, and just wants us to know He is the one who is doing it. Other times God speaks, and we hear His word. These are the times in which He is looking for someone to partner with Him in the work. If God cannot find someone to partner with Him then the work is

not going to be done. We know that the harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few. One way we can partner with God at all times in this endeavor is to do what Jesus says in Luke 10:2 “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” The Greek word ‘ekbalo’ used in this verse is better translated as “to violently thrust the laborers into the harvest field.” Pray that God would compel people into the mission, and the work of laboring for the harvest.

The Cost of Being Sent

Matthew 9:35-38: ³⁵ *And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.* ³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*

In Ezekiel God promises that He will take out of us a heart of stone, and give us a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26 ESV) When Jesus looked around Him, going to different cities, and seeing all the people, he had compassion on them. The call to be a laborer where we are is a call to live with our eyes open. We have to get outside of ourselves, and look at the people around us with compassion. Opportunities to share the Gospel, and minister to people are all around us. There will always be a need. The question you have to ask yourself is “Am I willing to be the answer to that need?” The cost of being sent means dying to our self and a willingness to have compassion on the world around us. It takes being in prayer to hear from the Lord, and it takes hearing from the Lord to get His heart. Much of our lives we live with a hard, cold, and calloused heart. God wants our heart to be soft. It takes a tender heart to be willing to be moved by the plight of the people around us. Sometimes even saying a simple word of kindness can be difficult when we have a hard heart. A tender heart, however, feels compassion for people in their weakness. How do you see the people God has placed in your life? Are you hard hearted and closed off? Or, do you feel compassion on them knowing that they are harassed and oppressed like sheep without a shepherd?

The Cost of Following Christ

Luke 9:57: *As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”*

Many people say that they want to follow Christ. In the verses following Luke 9:57 many people come to Jesus saying that they will follow Him, but only after they finish their earthly obligations. One said “*Lord let me first go and bury my father...*” another says “*let me first go and say farewell to those at home...*” Jesus’s response was, “*No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.*” (Luke 9:62 ESV)

The cost of following Christ is a call to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and come after Him. (Luke 9:23 ESV) Have you counted the cost?

Discussion (10-15 Minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our own lives.

- To whom has God called you to minister?
- What are some ways you can participate in the harvest?
- What are some things you can begin to pray for to advance the Kingdom?

Prayer (10-15 Minutes)

Pray for the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send forth the laborers, for the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.