

Jesus has a plan and you have a key role in it.

Jesus sends people out two by two to every place he intends to visit.

Luke makes it very clear, Jesus did not just send out men.

Luke avoids any word choice that would indicate otherwise.

He even avoids the word disciple.

It is almost impossible not to think that some of these pairs were married couples.

Jesus sends them out to every place he intends to visit.

The next line is like a lightning bolt,

“the harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

At first glance out into the world, one would not think that the harvest is abundant. But upon closer examination the abundant harvest is all around us, it just takes looking below the surface to see it.

One of the realities of life is that if you scratch just below the surface of any family or individual, you find a world of pain. We do a wonderful job of covering it over, but being a human is difficult.

It is in this struggle we all share that the abundance of the harvest comes to light. God is working with every person, or is at least trying to work with everyone. God is sowing seeds and nurturing their growth.

What God asks of us is to help with the harvest. Jesus specifically says: Go and find the sick. Help them back to health and make explicit what is implicit:

“The Reign of God is at hand for you.”

God’s Reign makes sense to those who acknowledge their struggle. It is the struggle that reveals God’s reign.

This is the core of Jesus’ revelation:

“The Reign of God is at hand.”

To follow Jesus is to trust that this is indeed true. Certainly there is a lot of evidence to the contrary. There are plenty of wolves in the world, and there are many who reject the Reign of God. But as followers of Jesus we do not get stuck on the negative. The Reign of God is always present, and it just needs to be pointed out.

There is a war in Ukraine, the negative is easy to see. Look more closely, there are hundreds of thousands of people caring for the homeless, the sick and the wounded. In the face of evil, the response of love reveals God’s Reign.

We get sick. People reach out to care and comfort. Nurses and doctors, the whole medical community leans in. Even the scientists do their part in discovering new treatments.

The Reign of God is at hand for you.

Pick any problem and sooner or later, the Reign of God is trying to intervene. What about those wounds that each of us bear? These reveal God's reign when they become the source of compassion.

Jesus does give us some practical advice for our mission.

Rick Steves would affirm Jesus' saying:

“To travel well is to travel lightly.”

If it doesn't fit in your backpack, you don't need it.

Jesus also warns against stopping to gossip. Gossip has a way of undermining God's Reign. Rather, offer others the gift of peace. Peace goes a long way in reaping the harvest of the Reign of God.

Jesus has a plan and you have a key role in it.