

Giving Away the Kingdom: A Greater Mission

I recently started a home project that I hoped would be a simple repair to a bathroom leak and dry rot in our floor. Unfortunately, as we opened up the floor we soon began to realize that the water damage was much worse than we had expected. I knew I needed help so we asked my brother-in-law who specializes in home repair to spend a couple days with us scoping out the problem. Again, the more we tore out – the project grew from patching the floor and replacing the shower to ripping out the entire flooring and replacing all the plumbing. We had to rent a jackhammer, add gravel filling and pour a new concrete floor. What began as a simple home repair turned into a major demolition and complete remodel of our bathroom. I could not have accomplished it without help from Glen, my wife's brother. Even then with his help, we both realized we needed more help to prepare and pour a new concrete floor. This would then need to be followed by another crew to rebuild and tile the shower area.

As the mission of Jesus grew – he also needed help to advance his kingdom so he appointed twelve disciples and then according to Luke another seventy to multiply his efforts and do what he was doing. Jesus led by example in Matthew 8 & 9 and then sent out his followers to do the same. This was the beginning of the *greater things* Jesus is expecting of all his disciples.

Journey Together:

- 1). Describe a recent time in your life when you needed someone's help to complete a task.
- 2). Share one thing you have learned about helping others.
- 3). What do you like/dislike about asking for help?

Road Map: Read Matthew 10

- 4). In Matthew 10 Jesus appoints twelve followers to join him as his disciples and to help advance his mission. What is so different about being a disciple of Rabbi Jesus?
- 5). How were they to go about their task? What were some of his specific instructions to them? What did he want them to do? What did Jesus provide for their success?

6). What message were they to share with people and how were they to deliver it? What things were to accompany their message and what did it have to do with Jesus mission?

7). What did they need most to carry out their mission? What were they to expect from others and why was it important to stay in one place instead of moving around from place to place?

8). What other instructions did Jesus give? How many of these instructions are still relevant today and how would you apply them?

9). Following Jesus example and giving away the kingdom as Jesus instructed his followers to do here in Matthew 10 is another core competency of our discipleship with Jesus. What are some ways you have been "giving away the kingdom recently"? What is standing in your way of this discipleship competency?

Discipleship challenge: Jesus is challenging us to care about others and proclaim his kingdom. Prayerfully ask God to show you the needs of others around you and how meeting their needs will advance God's kingdom. Joining Jesus mission and spreading the good news of his kingdom is the joy of discipleship with Jesus!

10). How can this group pray for you right now?

My Journey:

- 1). How has God been using *Journey* in your life this week to do *Great Things* for Him?
- 2). How has God used you to advance his kingdom this week?
- 3). How can this group pray for you today?