

Wednesday 24th June 2020

Matthew 9.35-10.8(9-23)

God, in our journeying make us adventurous. In our encounters makes us kind. In our hearts give us peace. Bless us as we step out of our comfort zone, out of the boxes we keep ourselves in much to the time. Help us to take risks and make a difference. Amen

Jesus calls the disciples, equips them, and sends them out as if classroom learning has finished. They are apprentices. But there comes a time when everyone has to break out of the classroom and trust they will cope with the job they have trained for. Apprentices learn while working, as the disciples discovered. All of our life is an apprenticeship in Christian living. Jesus knows the struggle it will be for apprentices to learn properly. He didn't mollycoddle the disciples and refuse to send them out. Instead he equipped them for the task and trusted them to work out how to use the equipment. Being a Christian means that Jesus equips us for the task at hand, no matter how hard it gets. God entrusts the task to us. Part of being equipped is learning to trust others. Just as the disciples are listed in pairs, so perhaps Jesus sent them out in pairs, to support and encourage each other. We are never left alone. But do we trust our real selves to those God puts around us? Are there people we refuse to see as being part of God's equipment for our task? We see the helplessness that obstructs our discipleship, nagging doubts and petty vanities that rise up as obstacles hindering obedience. We pray for strength to cast these aside and follow you diligently. May this world that you love yield in abundance the fruits of your kingdom,

Loyalty comes with a cost – e.g. following a sports team will have highs and lows; financial investments 'may go down as well as up'.

Questions for reflection ► How would you feel about facing a challenge like this? ► How would you finish the sentence 'When the going gets tough...'? ► How can you support one another through the challenging realities of being a disciple of Jesus?

Let's Pray Lord, we worship you in the beauty of holiness: with music, dance, stillness, words and silence. May the joy of your presence fill our lives, and overflow into the lives of all around us. Amen.

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