

St Paul's June 2026

Matt 9.35-10.8

Proclaimers of the good news

It's nice to hear good news. When Tom decided to get baptised, that would have been good news for all the family, and also for the angels in heaven.

Our passage starts with how Jesus went about "*proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom*". **Gospel means 'good news'**. Greek 'euangelion' literally means good news. So Jesus was going around proclaiming the good news (gospel) of the kingdom.

Something really good is starting - **the kingdom of God!** This is what's prophesied by Isaiah:

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, (who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation,) who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The kingdom of God is God reigning, and that is good news. **How beautiful it is** when people proclaim the gospel. Particularly, how beautiful was it when Christ first proclaimed the gospel. He is the gospel, the one in whom is the kingdom of God.

Since the fall it is not the way it is in the world. **Jesus finds people** with diseases afflictions and he **heals them** all. That's God's kingdom. It says "*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*" The world is full of people who are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus demonstrates God's kingdom by **having compassion on them**. God has compassion on us and all who are lost and struggling, and has stepped in to be our shepherd, to lift us up, and heal us and give us hope. There is no better news than the dawning of God's kingdom.

Jesus then says that he **wants others to be involved** in the work of the Kingdom. This also is beautiful. It is not just him, but he wants us to join him in bringing others in. He is the Lord of the harvest, and he says we should pray that he would send others into the harvest. "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few*". The **world is full of** people who are lost, "harassed and helpless", and he wants others to go out proclaiming the good news, the coming of the kingdom of God.

It is then the **beginning of this calling and sending** others into the harvest, with Jesus calling **the 12**. They were the 12 Apostles. Apostle means sent. They were the original ones Jesus was to send out into the harvest, to proclaim the good news. That's just the beginning. Jesus is **now sending us** as his labourers into the harvest too. We are not Apostles, like the 12 were, but we are all sent to share the good news of the Kingdom, to our friends and families, neighbours, people we work with, others at school.

It says of the 12 that he "*gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction*". This brings out that there is a bit of a battle involved. The kingdom of God is challenging and **confronting darkness**. Where there is unbelief and people don't know Jesus, evil and spiritual darkness hold sway and people are lost and "harassed and helpless". We go into the harvest to tell people about Jesus and help them come into the freedom and life of the Kingdom.

I don't know Tom's story, but I do know his getting baptised now is coming into the kingdom. No to the devil and yes to Jesus.

What are your feet like? Let's have beautiful feet going out following the Lord into the harvest with the good news.

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