

The Vehicle of Vision

SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Proximity, logic, guilt, and Martha were all telling Mary to work, but Jesus was not.

Martha was dominated by a single thought, "I must be doing SOMETHING."

Jesus defended Mary's inaction because she was engaged in the ONE THING He considered most important.

In the church, there are many voices compelling us to do many things. But what is the Master saying?

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. ³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

The needs of the needy and the compassion of Christ are compelling us to serve. But what is the Master saying?

³⁷ Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

PRAY. Before we go, before we send, we pray! But what do we pray for?

For the Lord of the Harvest (it belongs to Him) to send workers (who also belong to Him), into His Harvest (which also belongs to Him).

Acts 13:2

² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Prayer is the vehicle of vision! As we pray, God releases vision in the heart of the ready and willing worker!

Like Mary, we have to shut out all voices, books, people, and pressures, and listen for one voice only: the voice of Jesus.

Harvest fields surround us, and need is everywhere. Can we trust Jesus to show us our particular field, and who is to go?

Matthew 10:1

10 Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

First, Jesus gave them His authority and detailed its purpose, as He did again in Matthew 28. He will do the same for us. Then, Jesus sends them with very specific instruction! He will do the same for us.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; ⁶but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus told them not to go certain places and to certain people, and then told them where exactly to go! precedent
Instruction before and after going

Acts 16:6-9

⁶They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; ⁷and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. ⁹A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

Matthew 10:5-11

⁷And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

This was the message God gave them to share. It was very simple.

⁸Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.

This was the specific work they were to do, and how they were to do it: in the power of God, and without pay.

⁹Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, ¹⁰or a bag for *your* journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. ¹¹And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave *that* city.

Jesus told them how to prepare and what not to prepare, what to pack, where to seek lodging, the duration of stay, and on and on!

He will do all of this for us! Does God really have a specific plan for you and I, for this church, for this community?

Acts 17:26

²⁶and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Our times, locations, and specific works have been ordained by God.

John 19:28-30

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, *said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a *branch* of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. ³⁰Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Jesus has already finished the redemption! We get to be participants in the outworking of what He did on the Cross!

Commission: Swap- Loni and Jessica, Ecuador and with local outreaches. SCOTT and BRANDY