

Trail Guide -- Week of January 20, 2020

When it comes to discerning the direction of your life, on what or on whom do you rely?

Mon, 1/20 **Matthew 10:1** – “Jesus called his twelve disciples to him...” Before sending the disciples out on a mission, Jesus calls them together to be with him. He confers authority and enabling that flows to and through them collectively. Dallas Willard in, The Great Omission, points out the beginning of making disciples is to make sure and *be* a disciple – continually spending time with and learning from Jesus. How are you spending time with and learning from, Jesus?

Tues, 1/21 **Matthew 10:1,5-8** - Matthew does not record whether they went out singly, in pairs or all together. What if they went out all together? Or perhaps the point is that they *all* were sent, and *all* went out. Can you imagine how they must have felt: “You want me to do what?!” To which Jesus no doubt responded, “Yep.” And, “I want you to do this together. Not by yourself.” Think of the ways LUMC has heard the call of Jesus to preach “the kingdom of heaven is near” in our community. You are part of the team, called to be on the field, not in the stands.

Wed, 1/22 **Matthew 4:18-22** – I’ve heard it said – and experience has proven it true: “Life begins at the edge of your comfort zone.” Jesus called his disciples not to their comfort, but to the “edge” of obedience and service for the purpose of “fishing for people”. Anyone who has ever been fishing knows you’re going to get a little wet; you’re likely to get a little smelly; you may get poked by your own hook; your line is likely to get tangled or snagged, etc. It’s not easy, nor is it simple. But, when you catch that fish, small or large, it all becomes worth it. Following Jesus is not about comfort; it’s about learning to fish. Step to the edge, where life begins.

Thurs, 1/23 **Luke 10:1** – Who were these 72? They don’t get named by Luke, but they are known to God. They served as the advance – ambassadors – to prepare the way for Jesus. Their mission was to help prepare people to receive, recognize, and respond to the message of the kingdom of God come near. It wasn’t up to them to “close the deal” but rather, to open the door. As part of Jesus’ advance team, how are you helping to prepare the way?

Fri, 1/24 **Matthew 28:5-7** – The angel declared, “He [Jesus]... is going ahead of you into Galilee...” Sometimes we prepare the way; at other times Jesus paves the way. For he is THE way. Where is the risen Christ leading the way for you? For our church? Are you willing to go where he already is?

Sat, 1/25 **Luke 24:46-49** – What sets the church apart from every other service organization in our community? We have a message to share, we have a witness to give, we have a calling to fulfill. But first, we must wait to be filled, because we cannot – we dare not – try to do it alone.

Tomorrow is our 2020 General Conference Town Hall meeting, 3:00 to 4:30 PM. Pray for our presenters and for God to use this time to instill hope, provide clarity, and give concrete steps that enable us to prepare for our future and fulfill our mission to “Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”