

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, June 18th, 2023
Rev. Gerry Gallant

Dust Off Your Feet
Proper 6
Matthew 10:1-15

Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

O Lord, our Lord,
there are many places we could go this morning,
but we have desired to come to your house.

There are many voices to which we can listen today,
but we desire to hear your voice.

It would be easy to scatter,
but we have chosen to gather.

We need to behold your beauty,
to inquire in your temple,

to be wrapped in your love,
and to experience your renewing Spirit.

Come close, Lord Jesus,
to fill us and renew us. Amen

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Ever present God,
we thank you for calling us to meet with you today.
We praise you for coming to us long before we first came to you,
for knowing who would be here today,
and for knowing even our motives for coming.
By your Spirit lead and guide us during this service,
to help us hear you when you speak
and to guide our responses with hearts and voices

that rejoice in your presence. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn #1: “Only a Holy God” – CityAlight

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
 Who else could make every king bow down?
 Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
 Only a Holy God

What other beauty demands such praises?
 What other splendour outshines the sun?
 What other majesty rules with justice?
 Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
 The One and the Only
 Cry out, sing holy
 Forever a Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God

What other glory consumes like fire?
 What other power can raise the dead?
 What other name remains undefeated?
 Only a Holy God

Come and behold Him
 The One and the Only
 Cry out, sing holy
 Forever a Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God
 Come and behold Him
 The One and the Only
 Cry out, sing holy
 Forever a Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
 Who else would offer His only Son?
 Who else invites me to call Him Father?
 Only a Holy God
 Only my Holy God

Come and behold Him
 The One and the Only
 Cry out, sing holy

Forever a Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God
 Come and behold Him
 The One and the Only
 Cry out, sing holy
 Forever a Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God

Come and behold Him
 The One and the Only
 Cry out, sing holy
 Forever a Holy God
 Come and worship the Holy God

Opening Hymn #2: “Good And Gracious King” – CityAlight

I approach the throne of glory
 Nothing in my hands I bring
 But the promise of acceptance
 From a good and gracious King

I will give to You my burden
 As You give to me Your strength
 Come and fill me with Your Spirit
 As I sing to You this praise

You deserve the greater glory
 Overcome, I lift my voice
 To the King in need of nothing
 Empty handed I rejoice

You deserve the greater glory
 Overcome with joy I sing
 By Your love I am accepted
 You're a good and gracious King

O what grace that You would see me
 As Your child and as Your friend
 Safe, secure in You forever
 I pour out my praise again

You deserve the greater glory
 Overcome, I lift my voice

To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious
Good and gracious
Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious King

Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious
Good and gracious
Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious King

You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King
You're a good and gracious King
You're a good and gracious King

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much
the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;**

and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
 O Lord, have mercy upon us.
 Spare those who confess their faults.
 Restore those who are penitent,
 according to your promises declared to the world
 in Christ Jesus, our Lord.
 And grant, O merciful God, for his sake,
 that we may live a holy, just, and humble life
 to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
 Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.

Responsive Reading

Prayer for illumination (Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

Matthew 10:1-15

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ²The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. ⁹Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you

depart. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Sermon

The great commission was given to the disciples and to every Christian that follows Christ. However, how many of us feel adequate in carrying out this task? How many of us feel like we are qualified to go out as His disciples in this world? I would imagine that many of us do not feel qualified to go out into the world as disciples. In fact, I can tell you in all honesty that I felt the same way, I felt that I was not qualified to go out into the world and make disciples.

The truth is that no one really ever feels qualified to go out and teach anyone about God. However, we cannot use that as an excuse to not go out and do the task that Jesus laid out before us in the great commission. It is God that makes us qualified to serve him. You may have heard the expression, 'God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called'. Simply put we are never really qualified to serve Christ on our own, but when he calls us to serve Him, he gives us all that we need to serve Him.

Jesus told His disciples that they would never be alone when He gave them the great commission, He told them that He would always be with them. However, that was not the first time that He had sent them out into the world, today's Scripture relates to us one of the times in which Jesus sent his disciples out among His people to bring the Word of God to the world.

Once again, the Scripture starts with the twelve disciples. Jesus calls them together and grants them authority over unclean spirits, the ability to cast them out, the ability to heal people from all manner of sickness and disease.

The disciples went out and did the work, but all of the power came from Christ. As just men walking out among others the disciples had nothing that would set them apart, it was not until Jesus had given them a task and given them the power that they needed, that they walked differently.

Without Christ they were just normal men out in the world. The same is true for every one of us, without Christ we are just out in the world, and that knowledge should make us aware of why it is we cannot really change anything in ourselves or anything in this world unless God is with us.

Look at the twelve disciples, that rag tag group of men that Jesus had gathered. When we look at them individually, we begin to see how similar they are to us, there was nothing extraordinary that stood out about any of them, until they began their work for Christ.

Simon Peter was a fisherman. In the gospels we learn that he was often quick to act and speak. When the disciples were on the boat, Peter was willing to jump out, yet when his brain caught up with what he was doing he lost confidence in Christ and began to sink. When Jesus told the disciples that he was going to be killed, Peter bravely proclaimed that there was no way that was going to happen, and for that Christ calls him Satan. When Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him three times, Peter says no way, I will die before I deny you, and we all know how that turned out.

After Jesus was crucified what did Peter do? He did not stick around and continue in the ministry of Jesus, instead he went back to his boat and started fishing again. When Jesus returned, he gave Peter instructions on how he was to take care of the flock. Peter was not a great man; he was sinful and weak like all of us. In fact, many of us are often like Peter, quick to act and slow to think, jumping into things we cannot handle because we are not prepared, because we forget that we should be turning to God for all things in our lives.

Maybe you're not Peter, maybe you are more like James and John. Again, both were just everyday people fishermen by trade. Yet they too had problems during their time in the ministry of Jesus. They were hot headed, when Jesus was rejected by a village of Samaritans, what do the brother suggest, 'calling down fire from heaven to consume them'.

Or how about their struggle with pride, The Son's of Thunder and the desire that ran through the whole family to be seen in position of power and prestige, so much so that they ask Jesus to be the ones seated at his right and left hand in His kingdom. How many of us came to faith when we are struggling with anger, or pride or selfishness, maybe we are more like James and John than Peter.

Or how about Thomas, does anyone here struggle with their faith, does anyone have trouble believing in every aspect of Scripture? I am sure that there are people who have been like Thomas at some points during their walk of faith. Times when they wish that the reality of God was a little more tangible, that God would give them some sort of clear sign that he is in their lives. I know I was like Thomas as I grew in my faith.

Maybe you are more like Matthew, the tax collector, attached to the idea of wealth and money, or maybe the power and prestige of your career. How many of us are more concerned about making money than serving Christ. How many of us are more concerned about our career than our relationship with God. I know I was guilty of this for many years when I came back to faith. Yes, it is true that work can sometimes keep us away from Sunday morning services, but are we going to the website and reading them, or calling into the phone line and listening to them, or are we just skipping God for that week?

Everyone of the disciples that followed Christ was just like you and I, normal everyday people, with normal everyday struggles, until they accept the call and began their work for Christ.

We know the stories of the disciples. Peter, who was known to be quick to act and slow to

think, became the leader of the disciples. Christ chose him to be the leader, to lead the rest, yet he was no different from them. Through all of his failings and faltering during his time in Christ's ministry he learned what it is to be a leader, God put him through trials and tribulations, through failures and falters to equip him to be the man God needed Peter to be.

Peter who struggled with saying he was with Jesus, stood up in front of thousands of people on the day of Pentecost and helped bring 3000 people to salvation. We see the man who denied Christ to save himself from discomfort, go to being willing to be beat in the book of Act as he proclaims the Gospel to people. He became a great worker in God's kingdom, not because of anything that he had done, but because of the things that God did through him. Peter was even martyred because of his faith. The church historian Eusebias wrote that Peter and his wife were both killed. Peter was forced to watch his wife crucified and the whole time he was reminding her to remember the Lord and her faith. Then when his turn came, he requested to be crucified upside down as he did not feel worthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Lord and Saviour.

James and John, the prideful, selfish, hotheads, how did they change? James was martyred for the church. He was very outspoken about the Gospel and Herod targeted him. The man who wanted to call down fire on those who rejected Christ, went to his own death to prove to those who rejected Christ the truth of who Christ was.

John went one to write a few books you might be familiar with if you read your Bible. Including 1 John a book that focuses on the Love that we are called to have as followers of Christ.

Matthew, Thomas, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, the other James, Thaddeus, and Simon all were normal everyday men, that had normal everyday jobs, until they met Christ, until they witnessed the resurrection and came to true belief in Jesus as the Son of God. From that point on their lives were radically change, each one of them was martyred with the Exception of John, who wrote the book of Revelation in Exile and then died of Old age.

We can all relate to these followers of Christ because we want to believe that we are being changed like they were. However, we often skip one of the disciples, Judas Iscariot, perhaps the most well-known of all of the disciples. He walked with Christ for the same amount of time as all of the other disciples, yet he remained unchanged. Instead of placing his trust in Christ and learning from his teachings, Judas trusts in himself and maintains his desire for wealth and power. He is the perfect example of the fact that being in church and being called a Christian, of claiming to know who Jesus is, is not enough to be saved. There is an old saying, 'sitting in a church does not make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car!' Judas is an example of how you can be fully exposed to the truth of who God is and still deny that truth and go live the way you want.

Don't be like Judas, do not sit in church each week and let your sins rule your life every other day of the week. Place your trust in God and be transformed by the power of Jesus in your Life. Know that you are inadequate on your own, but with God you will begin to be changed, and

once that starts to happen God will use you for his purpose. Eleven men, normal everyday men, changed the whole world, changed societies and cultures that they had no idea existed, and started the spread of a message that is still impacting every level of society in the world today.

And like these men we need to trust in Christ as we carry out his commission. Jesus sends his disciples to go to bring the gospel to the lost sheep of Israel. He tells them to not go to Samaria or to the gentiles, but to their own people first.

We can learn something from this, we are not supposed to just randomly go out and try to bring the Word of God to anyone anywhere. Ministry should not be aimless, it needs to be specific, and it needs to focus on one place at a time. As we carry out the Great Commission we need to learn from this bit of Scripture and recognize that our ministry starts with the people we know, the people who are close to us, friends, family, co-workers and even our neighbors.

This is where we start, at home and work our way out one neighbour at a time, until we reach every corner of the Earth. Ministry work and sharing the Gospel begins right in our homes, in the way we think, and act and talk even within our own families.

The next thing we learn from this Scripture is that we need to trust in God fully in our ministry and in our evangelism. We rely on God's power, his provision, and his providence. The truth is that you will share the truth of the Gospel and who Christ is with many people who will simply reject the Word of God for their own reasons.

Did you notice that Jesus does not instruct his disciples to stay in that town trying to convince people? Notice that he does not say modify what I have instructed you so that they come to church first and then we might be able to teach them the truth. He tells them to go there and tell them the truth, and that there will be people who do not want to hear the truth.

People's salvation is not something that we control, that is God's providence, our roll in it is the great commission, going out and living our lives like Christ and sharing the Word of God with people. We are called to go out and share the simple truth of the Gospel and who God is with people, and then pray that the Holy Spirit does its work in them, the same way it has in us.

So, when they reject you, remember that it is not you that they are rejecting, it is God. "Shake the dust from your feet" and carry on doing your part in the great commission. This is important for all of us to hear again. **'And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.'** I feel like it's the devil's new ploy to get people caught up in arguing about points of faith and trying to convince others to believe the truth. The devil wants us doing this because when we are busy trying to convince someone to believe who will never believe we are also busy not carrying out the Great Commission. So, shake the dust from your feet and move on, do not get caught up in debates you do not need to, simply tell people the truth and pray that they accept it.

Jesus also tells us very plainly, that those who hear the Gospel and reject it are subject to His judgement. In fact, He says, **‘Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.’** On the day of Jesus’s judgement upon the white throne, people will be divided, the sheep and the goats, the believers, and the unbelievers. This is an important note for both believers and unbelievers. For those who reject Christ it is a stated fact of their eternal death in the lake of Fire, a fate worse than Sodom and Gomorrah.

For the faithful it is a reminder of the importance of our fulfilling the Great Commission. The lost will be lost forever if they do not receive Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and we should all be about the task at hand, telling everyone we meet about Jesus in the way we think, act, and speak.

So, as we wrap up here today, ask yourselves, are you as qualified as a couple of fishermen, a tax collector, a few hot heads, a doubter, and all of the other common people that Jesus gathered together and started His church with? Everyone here is just like one of the disciples of Christ, we all share in some of their traits, and they were all transformed by their faith, with the exception of Judas. Do not be like Judas and just attend church without every growing in your faith and contributing to God’s kingdom, instead be like Peter, or James, or John, or Thomas or any of the other disciples and set aside your sin, take part in discipleship, be part of God’s kingdom and take part in the Great Commission by sharing your faith with everyone in your life as you walk as the Salt and Light of this community.

Let us Pray,

Hold on to this Comfort in All Trials and Temptations

Lord God, heavenly Father,
 through your Son
 you promised us your Holy Spirit,
 that he will convict the world of sin,
 of righteousness and of judgment.
 Enlighten our hearts,
 that we may confess our sins,
 obtain eternal righteousness through faith in Christ,
 and hold on to this comfort
 in all our trials and temptations,
 that Christ is Lord over the devil and death and all things
 and that he will graciously deliver us
 out of all our afflictions
 and make us partakers of eternal salvation;
 through your Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one true God, now and forever.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Easter 4, Cantate

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspert offering@gmail.com If you have an Offering Envelope #, please include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn: "Yet not I, but through Christ in me" – CityAlight

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
 The future sure, the price it has been paid
 For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
 And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
 Jesus now and ever is my plea
 Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
 For He has said that He will bring me home
 And day by day I know He will renew me
 Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 All the glory evermore to Him
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 All the glory evermore to Him
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

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 Yet not I, but through Christ in me
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me
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Pastoral Prayer

Almighty God, gracious Father,
 in the presence of your bounty keep us humble,
 in the presence of all people's needs make us compassionate and caring.

Give us faith in our praying and love in our serving,
 knowing that by your power
 all may find a new balance in living and a new victory in adversity.

We pray for all unhappy lives,
 those who are bitter and resentful, feeling life has given them a raw deal,
 those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense,

those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others.

May your judgment and mercy be for their healing.

We pray for those who are lonely,
 who are shy and self-conscious,
 who find it hard to make friends;
 those who are nervous and timid,
 who ever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand.
 May your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship.

We pray for those who live with bitter regrets,
 for loving relationships brought to ruin,
 for opportunities freely given and woefully abused,
 for the bitterness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand,
 or for failure in personal integrity.
 May your grace give new hope to find victory in the very scene of failure.

We pray for all in illness and pain,
 weary of the day and fearful of the night.
 Grant healing, if it be your will,
 and at all times through faith the gift of your indwelling peace.

Bless the company of Christ's folk, the church in every land.
 Make her eager in worship,
 fearless in proclamation of the gospel, and passionate for caring.

Bless our country. Bless our leaders.
 Bless our children and grant us peace within our borders.
 Grant us as a nation to be found effective in establishing peace
 throughout the world.

Bless us, each one, in the communion of the saints,
 and keep us ever mindful of the great cloud of witnesses that,
 following in their steps, as they did in the steps of the Master,
 we may with them at the last receive the fulfillment
 promised to your people.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
 now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Benediction

As you leave this place this day,
 may God's love sustain you,
 and may you love those who surround you.

May God's Spirit empower you,
and may you empower all those you meet.
May God's joy fill your hearts,
and may this joy overflow
to the ends of the earth for God's glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**