

## 1. Get Acquainted: Icebreaker

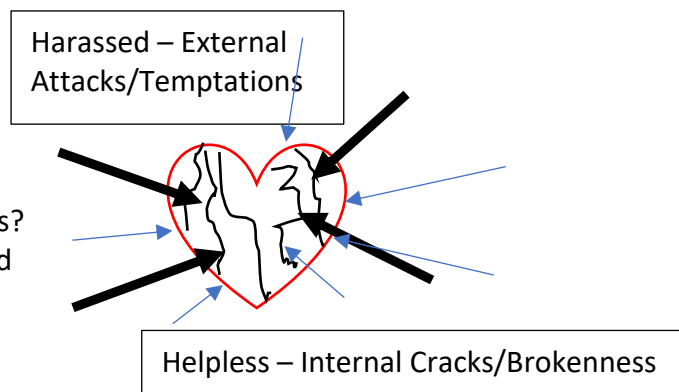
Jesus saw us as harassed and helpless

How are you harassed and helpless?

How are your neighbors harassed and Helpless?

Incarnation: How your neighbors Harassed and Helpless who are:

- 70 and older
  - Pretty
  - Talented
  - Skilled Laborers
  - Folks who Travel for Work
  - Middle Schoolers
  - Anxious
  - Rich
  - Folks who know a lot
- Folks who like things done well
  - Christian by non-Christian
  - Non-Christian by Christians
  - Pastors and Church Leaders
  - Husbands / Wives / Children
  - Addicts



## 2. Mission: They are harassed and helpless.... Therefore, Pray.

Why did Jesus tell His disciples to “pray for laborers” before He sent them to labor?

- Cuz before Father “sent” Jesus on mission, they talked.
- Jesus ONLY does with us what Father did with Him.
- The heart of the mission is bound in the heart of Father.
- Father transfers passion through time and talks

What happens when we pray?

- We meet with Father, Jesus and HS:
  - To Love Them and Those they are sending us to serve
  - To Know the JOY of the Sent-ness of:
    - Father sending Jesus, Jesus sending Holy Spirit, Jesus sending Us
  - To know the mission is Theirs, not ours
  - To Know the Outcome is Theirs, not ours
  - To Know the Means is Theirs, not ours
  - To Know the Blessing of Being Sent

What happens when I don’t pray?

- I muse over my own thoughts:
  - To figure out how to do what God wants, on MY OWN
  - To analyze their PROBLEM, to solve in MY STRENGTH
  - To conclude it is My mission, not theirs
  - To conclude the Outcome is MINE, not theirs
  - To conclude the Means is MINE, not theirs
  - To conclude the Blessing of Being Sent, is actually a curse

### 3. Worship: Harassed and Helpless, Our Trouble Leads to Thankfulness

We are created to be overwhelmed. We are overwhelm-able. The reason: so that we would, could and should cry to Father, Brother Jesus and Holy Spirit. Read Psalm 107. What does true repentance sound like? Give Thanks to those who allowed peril so that we might be saved.

**107 Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!**

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble<sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**4 Some wandered in desert wastes,**

finding no way to a city to dwell in;

<sup>5</sup> hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**6 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>7</sup> He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in.

**8 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

<sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

**10 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death,**

prisoners in affliction and in irons,

<sup>11</sup> for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

<sup>12</sup> So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.

**13 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>14</sup> He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death,

and burst their bonds apart.

**15 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

<sup>16</sup> For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.

**17 Some were fools through their sinful ways,**

and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

<sup>18</sup> they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

**19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup> He sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.

**21 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

<sup>22</sup> And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

**23 Some went down to the sea in ships,**

doing business on the great waters;

<sup>24</sup> they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep.

<sup>25</sup> For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;

their courage melted away in their evil plight;

<sup>27</sup> they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.<sup>2</sup>

**28 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>29</sup> He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

<sup>30</sup> Then they were glad that the waters<sup>3</sup> were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

**31 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!**

<sup>32</sup> Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

<sup>33</sup> He turns rivers into a desert,

springs of water into thirsty ground,

<sup>34</sup> a fruitful land into a salty waste,

because of the evil of its inhabitants.

<sup>35</sup> He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

<sup>36</sup> And there he lets the hungry dwell,

and they establish a city to live in;

<sup>37</sup> they sow fields and plant vineyards

and get a fruitful yield.

<sup>38</sup> By his blessing they multiply greatly, and he does not let their livestock diminish.

<sup>39</sup> When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, evil, and sorrow,

<sup>40</sup> he pours contempt on princes

and makes them wander in trackless wastes;

<sup>41</sup> but he raises up the needy out of affliction and makes their families like flocks.

<sup>42</sup> The upright see it and are glad, and all wickedness shuts its mouth.

**43 Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.**

#### 4. Kingdom Centered Prayer: Prayer Training from Worship Folder

##### YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His surpassing holiness and glory. Praise Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that no one and no thing can possibly compare with Him in His beauty and worth!
2. How have you committed your time and energies to your own mission, rather than engaging in the work that Jesus has given you to do? Confess your negligence to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and help you to regain your purpose in His Kingdom.
3. Read John 10:10-11. Give thanks to Jesus that He is the Good Shepherd, *God in the flesh*, who laid down His life for His sheep. Thank Him for becoming the Lamb who was slaughtered where you should have been!
4. Who do you know that is harassed and helpless, like a sheep without a shepherd? Jesus told you to pray, so pray for them, and ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers to them (*and that likely would include you*).
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your knowledge of the Gospel, your ability to express it, your compassion for those who do not yet believe, and your courage to continue especially when the world does not readily listen.

#### 5. Sermon Reflection:

##### **Proclamation of God's Word**

**Text:** Matthew 9:35—10:5a (ESV)

**Title:** The Instincts of Jesus: Incarnation **Teacher:** Tim Rice

<sup>35</sup> And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." ... <sup>10:1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> The 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; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out.

##### **Intro: When did you last see someone who was in trouble?**

What do you normally do when you see someone in trouble?

**A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT**

How would you diagnose what's wrong with people?

Jesus diagnosed our condition, ALL of us, as Harassed and Helpless.

- Harassed means skinned alive. Your skin is the greatest protection you have against infection. Without skin you are vulnerable to every disease and infection.
  - Our sin left us skinless and open to every temptation.
    - What temptations or harassments are you most vulnerable or weak to?
- Helpless means thrown down. "Help I have fallen and can't get up!"
  - Our sin leaves us vulnerable to pressures of culture and our own agenda.
    - What sin or opportunity when presented "knocks you over and leaves you unable to "right yourself" or utterly needy?
- What area of your life has left you both skinned alive and knocked down?
  - How has Jesus graced you with both compassion and friend to walk with you?

**HOW DOES JESUS RESPOND?** Do you think your condition required His response?

Jesus responds by loving. Love moves toward people. Jesus does this in 2 phases.

- Compassion or Common Passion – Same Feelings
- Incarnation – Walk in your shoes, live your life, experience your pain
  - How have you sinned against God by thinking "He can't relate"?
  - When have you spoken to God like you know and He does not, you feel and He does not?
  - Jesus became us. He is God with flesh. He is God con carne. God with meat
    - How does that advantage you and God to a better relationship... greater intimacy?
- Are you persuaded of your sheeply qualities? Do you trust Jesus to save?

**WHAT IS YOUR PART IN THE STORY?**

Why is it significant that Jesus invited us into this labor?

- What more would Jesus need to do for you to "want" to join Him in His laborers?
- Ambition, my assessment of the best use of my gifts and talents verses Mission, God's work that He has enlisted me to do to advance His Kingdom.
  - How do you understand your ambitions as a Grace of God?
  - How do you understand your mission as a Grace of God?
  - How can you enjoy both?
- What must you accomplish for Father in order for you to feel you have accomplished the mission He gave you?