

06-14-26 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Jesus sees the people’s spiritual and material need, their personal and structural suffering, and he is so moved that he immediately calls the disciples to expand this ministry of holistic care. He calls them to go and to do as he has done.

To go to “the lost sheep” ...is not simply to teach, preach, or evangelize as we might generally construe it. It is to care boldly and radically in the face of empire’s exploitative power. It is to see others with compassion and to live with a compassion that is both humble and bold.”

Kerry Hasler-Brooks



Matthew 9:35-38; 10:1-8

Questions for Reflection —

- What would it mean for you to consider the places of your daily life—your home, your neighborhood, your workplace--as a missionary field? What will help you consider each person and situation you encounter as providing an opportunity for prayer, mission, and ministry? What gets in the way of your ability to notice the struggles and challenges of the people around you? What will enhance your sensitivity to the spiritual and material needs of people around you?
- What specific gifts, graces, or blessings have you received from God that can be used to further Christ’s mission in the world? How can you use your particular gifts, skills, and resources to bring healing, hope, and/or practical relief to someone who is struggling in some way? In what ways are you reluctant or resistant to reaching out? What are some simple ways you can serve as an ambassador of Christ's love and peace?
- In what ways do you see our congregation engaging the holistic mission of Jesus, caring for minds, bodies, and souls? What do you see as the balance between addressing spiritual and material needs of the community around us through our programs and ministries? For what specific ministries do you think God is summoning, commissioning, and equipping our congregation as we seek to serve the needs of the people in the city of Worcester? As we envision our future how might we discern ways to care more boldly and radically in the face of societal ills? How is God calling *you* to active participation with others in making God’s vision for our ministries a reality?

Daily Household Prayer

God of love, You who called disciples and sent them: gather us now, equip us for Your service, and send us in Your name for the sake of the healing of the world, in the loving presence and the healing spirit of Christ. Amen.