

## **GET OUT OF THE HOUSE**

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We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus – to be someone's neighbour.

What is the great commandment Jesus gave to his disciples and to us?  
Mark 12.30-33

Eight times Jesus repeated the command that we are to love our neighbour. Neighbour means the ones living near us, but it also means ....who? You know the story of the good Samaritan in Luke 10.20-37.

After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus told his disciples he was leaving them. But he had a plan – Acts 1.8. What was it?

The disciples were to continue his work. Did they feel confident and able to do this? Did he expect them to do this on their own?

They had watched Jesus at work, they listened to his teaching, they learned, but now he said, 'I turn you loose. You are to be my hands and feet'.

The disciples had expected Jesus to stay with them and continue his work, but to be turned loose was not what they had thought would happen, However, God knows what he is doing,

Matthew 28.18-21 is the Great Commission. What does Jesus tell them they are to do?

Rick Warren says, 'A great commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment makes a great church.' Do we have that great commitment?

Jesus' strategy is still to turn us loose to run through our neighbourhood.

### **Some principles** from Luke 10

In verse 1 we read that Jesus appointed 72 (some translations say 70) people and sent them out in pairs. He would come after but they were to begin the work,

#### **Step 1 *Just get out of the house 10.1***

We can't outsource it or delegate it to someone else, it is our task. We may not do everything right, but we have to go out. We won't know the treasures who live in our street or neighbourhood if we don't go and find them,

Have you ever gone out and found treasures?

#### **Step 2 *Do ministry in community***

Jesus sent them out two by two, 10.2

We need one other person to talk with about what happens. Our support person could be from the neighbourhood, or from church, or family.

**Step 3 *Pray regularly for your neighbourhood***

Luke 10.2.

Brian asked whether we know the names of the people in the houses around us. How well did you do?

Every person in the neighbourhood needs prayer. What do you know of the circumstances of your neighbours?

Have any neighbours supported you in bad times?

**Step 4 *Look for the 'person of peace'*** Luke 10.5-7

We have only so much time Look for the people who are willing to listen, to connect, to bond, be friendly, who are hospitable, who are responsive,

Notice the good things they do. Those who are receptive to friendship are the ones to focus on,

**Step 5 *Love in true humility*** Luke 10.5-7

The disciples were to go and ask for help, to be humble. We don't need to know the answer to everything, just to go and be ourselves.

Love out of mutual humanity, We don't go as superman, but as 'jars of clay'.

**Step 6 *Don't be discouraged by rejection*** Isaiah 53.3

Luke 10.16, Some will listen, some will reject – but you have given them a chance to know the truth. If someone doesn't respond, don't give up. This is God's mission – keep on loving so they hear Jesus, He never gave up on his disciples or on us,

How do you respond to this message? Do you think it's too hard, or impossible for you?

It's important that we allow God to open the way – and always remember that he is the God of the impossible. Have you ever seen him do the impossible?