

McCabe United Methodist Church
The Great Delegator!
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20: July 7, 2013
Pastor Rick Fossum

Did you hear about the woman who received a phone call from her daughter's school telling her that her daughter was sick? She left work and stopped at a nearby pharmacy to get some medicine for her daughter.

She returned to her car and realized that she had locked the keys inside the car. She was in a fix or a pickle.

She just stood there by her car. She didn't know what to do. She was close to hitting the panic button when she bowed her head and prayed. **"Lord,"** she said, **"would you please send me some help?"**

Within five minutes a motorcycle roared up and pulled into the parking space next to her car. A rough, dirty-looking biker got off and nodded at her. The woman prayed again. **"Lord,"** she prayed, **"is this some kind of joke? Is this guy the best you can do? Oh well,"** she sighed softly.

"Excuse sir," she said. **"I've locked my keys inside the car. My daughter is sick and I need to pick her up from school. Could you help me?"**

The biker walked over to her car, and in less than one minute he had her car door open. She hugged the man and through tears she said, **"Thank you. Thank you so much! You are such a nice man."**

The biker replied; **"Well, lady, I'm not so nice. I just got out of prison for car theft."**

The woman hugged the man again and said another prayer, **"Thank you Lord. You even sent me a professional."**

Do you believe? Do you believe that Jesus sends people, like that biker, to help other people? Has Jesus ever sent someone to help you? Better yet, has Jesus ever sent YOU to help out someone else?

In our Scripture lesson today, the first verse goes like this, *"The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them two by two to every town and place where he was about to go."*

Did you hear that? *"Where he (meaning Jesus) was about to go."* Jesus was going to go to these places himself, but instead he decided to send out the seventy to do the work. This is vintage Jesus. I suppose he could do anything in the world that needs to be done, but no. He chooses everyday, ordinary people, people just like us, to do the

work that needs to be done.

From the beginning of his ministry, Jesus was sending out people to help him. He choose twelve Apostles. He called them, he trained them and he sent them out into the world to spread the Good News from one corner of the world to the other.

And in Matthew 28, *the Great Commission*, Jesus gathered together all his disciples for one last lesson before he ascended to heaven. Do you remember what he said to them? Jesus told his disciples to buckle up and hold on. You're just getting started. **"Go,"** Jesus said. **"I'm sending you into the world. Make more disciples. Make my kingdom better. Baptize everybody who is willing to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."**

This is how Jesus does business. This is the how Jesus has always done business. He builds his kingdom by sending out ordinary, everyday people just like you and me.

Jesus is the great delegator.

The church, this one and everyone, couldn't survive if it wasn't for people like you who hear Jesus calling them, stepping up and going where he sends you and doing the job he asks you to do.

Last year, we had eight adults volunteer to be mentors for our eight confirmation students. It was a big imposition for these adults. They had to show up every Wednesday night, sit next to their student and be a good role model. Yet, each mentor felt Jesus nudging them and they did it.

If you've ever been to a funeral at McCabe you might have noticed a group of usually women working in the kitchen to serve lunch to the grieving family and their friends. They wouldn't have to spend their time like that. But they hear Jesus calling them and they respond.

Just a few days ago, I saw a couple from McCabe working outside. One was painting parking stripes on our lot and the other was busy trimming a tree. Jesus nudged them and they also responded.

I could go on and on. The point is this: everyday, in hundreds of different ways, Jesus calls your name and mine to help out whether it's in this church or this community or wherever. It's how Jesus gets things done. He is the great delegator.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer came from a wealthy German family. He had the best education money could buy at the University of Berlin. He became an ordained Lutheran pastor. When things began to turn ugly in Germany in the early 1930s, Bonhoeffer began to feel unwelcome and threatened in his own country.

About this time, he received an invitation to come to America and teach at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Bonhoeffer accepted the invitation. Eventually, he was offered a full-time position at Union Theological Seminary.

He prayed about whether he should accept this full-time position or not. Parts of him said ‘yes’ and parts of him thought he should go back to Germany and help the church and the German people as they struggled under Hitler’s rule.

He kept thinking and praying, **“but Lord, I’m only one person. What can I do in Germany? Besides, I like America. I like my new job. I like teaching people.”**

One day, as he was praying about his decision, he happened to read one of Paul’s letters to Timothy. Paul was alone in his ministry and he needed Timothy to help him. And so Paul wrote to Timothy, *“And Timothy, he wrote toward the end of his letter, ‘come before winter’.”*

Those three words jumped out at Bonhoeffer. *‘Come before winter’*. He finally knew what he had to do.

A sense of peace came over him. He took those words *‘Come before winter’* as words straight from the mouth of God.

In a few days, Bonhoeffer was on a ship, sailing back to Germany.

Why did Dietrich Bonhoeffer go back to Germany where eventually he would die in a Nazi prison camp?

He was sent. That’s why. Jesus had a job for him to do and he did it.

Jesus is the great delegator. I don’t know why Jesus works through people like all of us, but I know he does. I doubt many of us will ever be sent to faraway places where our lives will be threatened like Bonhoeffer’s life. But everyday, in many different ways both big and small, we are all sent. Jesus has jobs for us to do. He is the great delegator.

“Go here,” Jesus says, **“I know someone who is hurting.”**

“Go here,” Jesus says, **“I know someone who needs what you have to offer.”**

“Go here,” Jesus says, **“And tell this person about my Good News”**

“Go here,” Jesus says, **“And help this church grow stronger and healthier.”**

I don’t know what Jesus is saying to you this morning or where he wants to send you, but I do know this: Jesus is the great delegator and he needs us to be his hands and feet, his heart and soul in this world. He chooses us, in all of our limitations and with all our imperfections, to help make his kingdom better.

By the way, do you remember what happened to the seventy people that Jesus sent out at the beginning of our lesson from Luke? The Bible tells us, “**The seventy returned with joy.**”

They returned with joy. How about that? People just feel better when they follow Jesus and go where he sends them and do what he asks them to do. Following Jesus and helping him build a better world isn't some burden that we're forced to endure, but rather it's blessing. A blessing that brings us joy.