

# Daily Devotional Guide

## Sun, May 17 – Borrowed Sight

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*

**Read:** Luke 10:1-2

**Reflect:** Jesus looks at the same villages we look at, and he says the harvest is plentiful. Already. Right now. Before anyone has gone anywhere. If we had been standing with the seventy that morning, we would not have said the same thing. We would have seen resistance, indifference, fatigue – the same things we see when we look at our neck of the woods on a Tuesday afternoon. The harvest Jesus sees and the harvest we see do not look like the same harvest. And that is the gap. Jesus does not close the gap by handing us a method. He gives us a prayer. He asks us to pray for laborers, because the harvest is not the missing piece. The laborers are. Laborers who see what he sees. The first work of drawing near with the gospel is not strategy. It is borrowed sight.

**Respond:** Where does the harvest around you seem thin, and what might shift if you asked Jesus this week to lend you his eyes for those places?

**Pray:** Lord, give me your eyes that I may see the harvest I do not see.

## Mon, May 18 – The Prayer That Turns in Our Hands

*"Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way."*

**Read:** Luke 10:2-3; Isaiah 6:8

**Reflect:** Jesus puts a prayer in his disciples' mouths and then sends them in the very next breath. The prayer is the sending. The praying is the going. And here is what we usually do with this prayer. We pray it the way Isaiah prayed it – except backwards. Isaiah said, "Here am I, send me." We say, "Here am I – send them." Send someone bolder. Someone more equipped. Someone less squeamish. But Jesus does not put this prayer in our mouths so we can pray for somebody else to come along. He puts it in our mouths to begin forming us into the laborer being prayed for. The prayer turns in our hands as

we pray it. And the laborer Jesus is praying for has two marks: borrowed eyes, and a prayer that has implicated the one praying.

**Respond:** Have you been praying for someone else to be sent? What would change if you prayed today, "Here I am – send me"?

**Pray:** Lord of the harvest, here I am. Send me. Let me be the answer to my own prayer for laborers.

## Tue, May 19 – Sent in Pairs

*"He sent them on ahead of him in pairs."*

**Read:** Luke 10:1, 3-4

**Reflect:** Jesus does not send any of the seventy alone. He pairs them. He sends them light – no purse, no bag, no extra sandals. And he sends them as lambs among wolves. Most of the squeamishness we carry about sharing the gospel assumes it is something we do alone. One Christian. One non-Christian. One conversation we have to get right. Of course we are squeamish. We were never meant to do this alone. And in our setting, the pairing Jesus describes does not mean two missionaries on a sidewalk. It means two households who have decided, together, to step into the ordinary fabric of their lives – to eat at each other's tables, let their kids run around in each other's backyards, let their weeks overlap. The going is paired all the way down.

**Respond:** Who is the other household – the family, the home – God might be inviting you to begin sharing life with? What would it look like to take one small step toward that pairing this week?

**Pray:** Father, give me one other household to walk this with. Open my home, and open theirs, and let our lives overlap for your kingdom's sake.

## Wed, May 20 – Carrying Shalom

*"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'"*

**Read:** Luke 10:5-7

**Reflect:** When Jesus tells his disciples to say peace at the door, he is not teaching them a polite greeting. The word behind our English is shalom – the wholeness of everything God intends. The presence of every good thing under his reign. When the table is full and the door is open and the children are safe. When the reign of God is operative in the texture of an ordinary day. And here is what the seventy were actually carrying. The shalom they spoke was the kingdom of God drawing near – in their own persons. They were the threshold. The kingdom had lodged in them. And

when they walked through a doorway, the kingdom walked with them. The same kingdom that has come near in Jesus has come near, by his Spirit, in us. Our households are where it has lodged. The first work is not to find someone to evangelize. The first work is to be the kind of home in which shalom is already at home.

**Respond:** Where in your own home is shalom not yet dwelling – and what would it look like to invite the King to settle there this week?

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, lodge your kingdom in my home. Let my household become a place where shalom is already at home.

## Thu, May 21 – Watching for the Person of Peace

*"If anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person."*

**Read:** Luke 10:6-8

**Reflect:** Jesus tells the seventy that when shalom is welcomed, it rests. When it is not, it returns. And then he says: stay in that house. Eat what they provide. Do not move from house to house. The gospel does not move by saturation. It moves nodally. It lodges in one received life, and from that life it extends through networks no campaign could reach. The person of peace is not a stranger we go hunting for. The person of peace is someone the Lord has already been bringing toward the orbit of our opened, paired homes – a neighbor whose kids play with ours, a coworker invited to dinner, a friend of a friend who shows up at the table, the parent at school pickup who lingers a little longer than expected. When that person appears, the work is not to spread thinner. The work is to concentrate. Share more meals. Listen longer. Love more patiently.

**Respond:** Who in your life right now might be a person of peace the Lord is bringing into your orbit? How might you pour a little more attention there this week?

**Pray:** Lord, open my eyes to the person of peace you are already bringing near. Help me concentrate where you are at work.

## Fri, May 22 – Naming What Is Happening

*"Say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*

**Read:** Luke 10:8-11

**Reflect:** The hardest part of sharing the gospel today is not finding the person. It is naming what is happening in the room. We can host. We struggle to herald. The old script told us that naming meant delivering a presentation – a memorized sequence, a careful walk-through. That is not what the naming is. Naming what is happening is not a presentation. It is a testimony to a present reality. The person at our table is encountering shalom. They can feel it. They may not have a name for it yet – but we do. When the moment comes, the work of the herald is to tell them, gently and honestly, what the name is. What you are feeling here is the kingdom of God drawing near. It is here because of Jesus. And his reign has come near to this home – and now, through this home, to you. Words like that. In our own voice. Not recited. Simply true. And then the herald invites: will you step into this? Will you repent – and believe?.

**Respond:** Is there a moment you have let pass when you should have named what was happening? Ask the Lord to give you courage and clarity the next time he opens such a moment.

**Pray:** Lord, give me the courage to name what is happening in my midst. Make me a faithful herald in my own voice.

## Sab, May 23 – The Yes Is Enough

*"He appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him."*

**Read:** Luke 10:1, 17-20

**Reflect:** The seventy did not have the journey mapped. They had a sending. They were not given a manual or a curriculum. They were given Jesus and his Spirit, and they were sent – village by village, door by door, table by table. And as they went, the Lord showed them the way. When they returned, they returned with joy. They had not figured everything out in advance. They had simply said yes to the next step, and the kingdom had drawn near through them in ways they could not have planned. That is the sending we are now under. We do not have to know the whole journey. We do not have to be experts. We do not have to have everything figured out. We are simply saying – to the King who has drawn near to us –

here I am. The yes is enough. The Spirit walks us through everything that comes after. And one day, like the seventy, we will return with joy at what the King has done through ordinary disciples who said yes.

**Respond:** Where can your life become a visible sign of Jesus' reign this week?

**Pray:** What yes is the King asking of you in this season – not the whole journey, just the next step? Will you say it today?.

## Discussion Questions

1. When you look at your own neck of the woods, what makes the harvest seem un plentiful to you – and what might shift if you asked Jesus this week for his eyes rather than your own?
2. Have you been praying for someone else to be sent, while staying outside the harvest yourself? What would it take to let the prayer turn in your hands and pray, "Here I am, send me"?
3. The sermon described the going as two households opening their lives to each other rather than one Christian going alone. Who is the other household God might be inviting you to begin walking with – and what would a first step toward that pairing look like?
4. Where in your life is naming what is happening – speaking of Jesus simply and honestly in the rhythm of ordinary friendship – most difficult? What would help you become a more faithful herald in your own voice?

*(prepared by Pastor Mel Baga)*

# RIVER FLOW

## Cascading Sabbath into the Week

May 17-23, 2026

We close the *Fluent in the Gospel* series with a message titled "Drawing Near with the Gospel," drawn from Luke 10:1-11. Jesus sent out seventy others – common disciples – to every town he himself intended to come. He told them the harvest was already plentiful. He sent them in pairs. He told them to travel light, to go as lambs, to carry shalom into the homes they entered, to stay where peace rested, and to announce that the kingdom of God had come near.

That sending is now ours. We are the seventy for the seventy in our day, matched by Jesus to our own neck of the woods. These seven devotionals are designed to help us live into that sending one day at a time. This River Flow guide is meant to help you cascade Sabbath into the week ahead through personal reflection, family worship, group devotional study, or spiritual conversation with others. I pray you will use it to deepen your walk with the King who has drawn near, and to widen the flow of his shalom into the lives of the people around you.

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