

BECOMING A REDEMPTIVE PERSON

(Luke 10:1-3)

Luke 10:1-3-----After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

The documentary film entitled *The Drop Box* tells the remarkable story of Lee Jong-Rak, pastor of Juserang (or, God's Love) Community Church in Seoul, South Korea. Worldwide, millions of children are abandoned at birth. But in South Korea, because of the cultural disgrace toward unwed mothers, the problem is serious and growing.

Unwanted children are often left to die in an alley or street corner or dumped in a trash bin. But occasionally they're left on someone's doorstep. When some of those unwanted newborns started being placed on Pastor Lee's church steps, he decided to take action. He and his wife, spurred by their Christian faith and the experience of raising a son with extreme disabilities, began to take in these children. Because of the long, cold winters in South Korea, he eventually built a "drop box" into the front wall of the church. With a door that opens from the outside as well as the inside, it's like a baby-sized drawer, complete with light bulb, heater, and a loud bell that alerts his family when a baby is placed in the box.

Today, Pastor Lee's family and a small group of volunteers provide a loving home for more than a dozen mildly to severely disabled children at a time. Over the years, they have saved hundreds of abandoned newborns.

Some have criticized Pastor Lee. They say his compassion encourages mothers to abandon their children. But history shows that abandonment has been happening for generations. Despite the criticism, enormous cost, overwhelming amount of work, and the lack of any government funding—Pastor Lee and his family continue. Night after night, Pastor Lee stays up listening for the alarm. When a new baby arrives, he races downstairs, bundles up the child, and prays.

Both Christian and secular audiences have flocked to see the film. *The Hollywood Reporter* (the secular journal of the entertainment industry) was so enthusiastic about the film, it finished its report with this:

[The director of *The Drop Box*], Brian Ivie, was transformed by the making of the film. He grew up going to church on Christmas and Easter and considering himself a Christian "because I didn't smoke cigarettes and I watched Fox News with my mom. It was a decorative label." But witnessing Lee's sacrifice and compassion for the abandoned children changed his perspective. "These kids were helpless," he says, "and I realized I was broken and helpless too, and I also needed to be rescued." Ivie actually went to South Korea to make a different movie, but once he met Dr. Lee and saw the work he and his team were doing, he changed his plans, produced *The Drop Box*, and in the process, became a Christian after hearing a sermon on the Cross of Christ.

He said of Pastor Lee:

“Pastor Lee was able to love those children who weren’t outwardly beautiful, mobile or able to speak. He didn’t need anything from them. He had everything. He could just give.”

That is an amazing story. A **movie producer** who realized that **he** needed to be rescued spiritually sees a believer in Christ loving children who needed to be rescued—and what is the result? The love he sees is so awe-inspiring that **he hungers** for rescue and finds it through the good news of Jesus.

In my message last week, I said that one of God’s greatest goals for our lives is for us to treat people so kindly that it will make them ask “why?” **“Why are you so different from everyone else I know?”**

This is called becoming a “redemptive” person. When Christ redeemed each of us, He rescued us from Satan’s kingdom. **A redemptive person** is one who rescues or restores---one who helps another find freedom.

This morning I would like to speak to you on some steps that we can take to become redemptive people—people who help others find **in Christ** the freedom they so desperately need.

Title: Becoming a Redemptive Person

(Prayer)

Last Sunday, regarding the matter of why all of us need to be part of God’s plan to bring others to Christ, I quoted Lloyd John Ogilvie:

“Without God, we can’t. Without us, He won’t.”

Jesus said, **“You will be** My witnesses...”

This is why in His time on earth our Lord worked so tirelessly toward helping His disciples become redemptive people---people who could help others find God and the freedom and forgiveness that only God could give them.

In the chapter just before the text we read earlier **(= Luke 9)** Jesus begins to guide His 12 apostles in this process and He sends them forth to heal people and to share the good news with them.

Then, after sending the twelve out, **Jesus decides to send 70** more of His disciples out in Luke 10. The harvest is so great and the laborers are so

few that our Lord is not content with a handful of redemptive people---
He pushes forward to raise up more.

The Lord is raising up people who basically will give their lives to do what
He loves to do---to touch hurting lives. In Luke 10 we get a glimpse of
our Lord's strategy.

This morning from our text, as we look at what the Master Teacher did to
prepare the 70 for ministry, I would like you to see four steps involved in
transforming His followers into redemptive people:

Becoming a redemptive person involves:

1. Preparation

"After these things..."

(10:1) These things = the events of chapter 9 (& the sending forth
of the 12)

The Lord prepared the 70 as they saw both the apostles and Jesus
Himself loving and serving the people of 1st century Galilee.

So how did He prepare them? What did they learn? (3 lessons of
many):

- **About God's presence.** When they saw Jesus send the 12 out
on their own and all that God used them to do, they learned
that God would be with them as they went forth.
- **About God's power.** When they saw Jesus feed 5000 people
from a little boy's lunch, they learned an unforgettable lesson
about the power of God to do the impossible.

(BTW, Jesus told the 12: "You give them something to eat"---**we**
are responsible to give people the bread of Life...)

- **About Satan's opposition.** When they saw the apostles fail in
their attempt to help the demon possessed boy, they learned
that Satan doesn't surrender territory easily.

(The same will be true in your office, your neighborhood, and
your school. Our Lord wanted His followers to know that they
faced a formidable foe and that setting the prisoners free would
not be easy.)

Folks, before God can use us to set captives free, it will take some **preparation** (boot camp first then the battle).

Becoming a fully redemptive person involves **preparation** but it also involves **a decision**.

2. **A Decision**

"...the Lord appointed..."

The Lord appointed 70 people with a task he wanted them to fulfill. Did it ever occur to you that the Lord appointed **you** to do something for Him in His plan for mankind? **You** are part of His design!

What abilities has God bestowed upon you that you can use to shower His love on other people? Can you bake some brownies? Fix a car? Mow a lawn? Repair furniture? Listen? Read? Clean? We could go on and on here. But the bottom line is this: just as God appointed the 70 to go out and shine His love, He appoints us to do so as well. We must constantly be looking for ways to show God's love to others.

The way we fit into God's plan is by loving God, and then loving others so we might, in God's time, share the good news with them

The decision we have to make is this—will I obey God and use my abilities and let His light and love shine through me, or not?

God is not just looking for **faithfulness** He is also looking for **fruitfulness**.

[#1. Preparation... #2. Decision...]

3. **Accountability**

"...and sent them two by two..."

The Bible tells us that "two is better than one." And Jesus sent the 70 out to minister in pairs.

When you are setting out to love people until they ask you why, if **you have a friend encouraging you** in this endeavor, it will go a long way.

Let me encourage you to tell a friend or your spouse of your desire to become a fully redemptive person and have them pray with you about this as well as with you for those you are setting out to

reach. Have them pray for you as you set out to use your unique abilities to show God's love to (and to share His salvation with) others.

Finally...

4. **A Sharp Focus**

"...and sent them...into every city and place where He Himself was about to go..."

Jesus sent the 70 to the places He was about to go. He sharply focused His troops. So what does that teach us? The focus of the 70 was to prepare each village for that day when Jesus would arrive and minister personally. In the same way, we are to minister to people in such a way that they will be ready when Jesus begins to knock on their hearts personally.

Do the spade work (build the relationships) and then God can send someone gifted in harvesting what you have cultivated and sown--- a friend, a pastor, or maybe even you! (Let us know if you need someone to share a witness!!!!)

Listen carefully. Many people think that evangelism is simply knocking on the doors of and talking to strangers. But biblically, much more is involved. It also involves the awesome opportunity of seeing just how God will use **you and your abilities to prepare others** to hear the message of eternal life.

Can you make a plate of brownies for someone? If you can, I think God's got a great opportunity for you in His army---for **all of you** who are ready to love others until they ask you why!

(Lord's Supper)