

Sermon Title: *Appointed By Jesus*

Series: Vision Casting 2022

Speaker: Pastor Damian Mericka

Text: Luke 10:1-20

Introduction: **Kingdom Endurance**

“By your endurance you will gain your lives.”

-Luke 21:19

The idea of patiently pursuing Jesus upstream, as the same Spirit fills us to overflow that came upon Him, continues to press upon me as both vision and mission. As a community of faith, as a local church, we have the Holy Spirit and are called to continue the mission of Jesus, which is to take His message, the Gospel, to all peoples of all the world. This is a message that is delivered in both *declaration* and *demonstration*.

As I study church history, there are moments when the Kingdom bursts into our world with such a ferocious outpouring of the Spirit. Then as the world turns upside down things subside and normalize. Famine sets in and God’s people cry unto Him for a fresh outpouring. In time that outpouring comes, revival occurs and again our world is turned upside down with the ferocity of the Holy Spirit upon us. I believe we are at the near end of this season of famine, and I am on my knees in prayer, fasting regularly, and feeding off of God’s Word more than anything else in my life.

As a Pastor I can do no less than to preach God’s Gospel- for as Paul said, *necessity is laid upon me! Woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel!* (1 Corinthians 9:16) I am committed to train and equip this generation of believers for the outpouring that is coming. To see us before a Holy God, arms lifted in welcome for His Spirit to pour out in a renewing tidal wave

God’s message though is so much more than just the narrative in the Gospels; it is the whole council of God’s Word. The more we know the Word of God, rightly dividing it, the greater our vision and understanding of Jesus is, and the greater His Spirit can work through us for His Glory! This morning we are going to be looking at a New Testament Truth that was shaped out much earlier than the moments Jesus appoints those He sends out in His Name.

“Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” And he cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

There the Lord made for them a statue and a rule, and there he tested them, saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.”

Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.” -Exodus 15:22-28

As we’ve read this passage in times past, I’ve always noted that this is a point for another sermon, another day. Well everyone, today is the appointed time, so buckle up! But before we leave this introduction, remember, God desires to do a work in us before He does a work through us. In our context, God desires to bring healing into the Nation of Israel. What would it look like to bring healing through the Nation of Israel?

1. **Appointed** by Jesus (Luke 10:1-16)

(v1)

Today’s text follows after Jesus sending the closer Twelve Disciples out in like manner. We read this in [Matthew 10:5-15](#); however, I want to note one verse that provides a little bit more detail than Luke does.

“Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.”
-Matthew 10:6-8

In this we see Jesus sends out the Twelve, and then appoints Seventy others to go out in like manner. Luke notes that they were **appointed** by Jesus, which has significant bearing beyond simply sending them out with a general task. They were not a grub hub taking people their food orders, but were in fact bringing the living bread and water to a lost and dying world. In the Greek **appointed** means to actively lift up anything on high and exhibit for all to behold, such as the announcement of a newly elected official or king. In our context, they were sent to like up Jesus.

Jesus said, *“Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”* **-John 12:31-32.**

(Vv.2-12)

Jesus immediately asks them to pray. While they are richly resourced with everything they could ever need to give Jesus their yes, they are incredibly understaffed. I understand and appreciate this direction from Jesus. They are sent out to seek first God’s Kingdom, trusting

Him to provide what they need. *Note that the provision comes as they are serving, not before or after.* They were to do the same- heal.

It is here we see God, who desired to bring healing into Israel at a place with Twelve Springs and Seventy Palms, now healing through Israel as Jesus sends out Twelves Disciples, and then Seventy more. Healing through God's Kingdom brought near to them through Jesus, the Son.

(Vv.13-16)

For those who reject their message, reject Jesus. To reject Jesus is to neglect so great a salvation from God. ([Hebrews 2:3](#)) The Disciples had to understand this, for the temptation to compromise Jesus and His message for safety and prosperity would be a rejection of Him. This brings a level of sobriety to what it means to be *appointed* by Jesus.

(Vv.17-20)

And here we see the heart of today's message. *Two generations serving together- Jesus and then His Disciples. Jesus has done a work in them and is now doing a work through them!* Jesus sent them out and witnessed what His Name was doing- casting out the Ruler of this world, Satan, and bringing defeat and rejection to the principalities and powers of the rulers of darkness, which is where our spiritual battle takes place ([See Ephesians 2 & 6](#)). *As they are cast out, we are lifted and led upward, higher in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit! This is our Divine Appointment in Jesus!*

It is vital to note this part- the *physical* healing was the result of *spiritual* victory. The *Spiritual* victory must supersede the *physical*. To get this wrong is to miss the opportunity to both experience Jesus in our own lives and see Him overflow into the lives of others. *Our Kingdom potency is defined by our prayer lives.*

2. The Fruit of Victory (Exodus 17:8-16)

“8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. 9 So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” 10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” 15 And

Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner, 16 saying, “A hand upon the throne of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.” -Exodus 17:8-16

Stepping back into the Old Testament a bit, we see this shaped out for us in ways that will help us step into our appointment by Jesus with greater stride. Here we see again, two generations facing against a threat in the people of the Amalekites. These people were similar to the Sand People of Tatooine for Star War fans. They were offshoot descendants of Esau and were bullies.

“Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God.” -Deuteronomy 25:17-18

Like their spiritual father, who is a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he can devour (1 Peter 5:8), these bullies do the same to God’s children. **Enough was enough for God and Israel**, it was time to face their enemy. In this moment we see Moses ascend the hill while Joshua leads the fighting men to go to combat. On this hill Moses would stand with arms outstretched bearing the rod that brought forth the plagues against Egypt. What God did for Israel with the staff, God was now going to do through Israel as it was raised. The wood that would make bitter waters sweet. The cross that would lift the Messiah for all to know victory through faith!

Moses would *witness* the victory happening from his high place, while Joshua and Israel would *experience* the victory happening through them. **Moses, representing the spiritual side of the battle, if lessened would manifest in the physical battle losing ground.** You see this, correct? We cannot; yea we must not loose sight of this truth! The battle depends on it!

3. The Fruit of Defeat (Supporting Text)

Shortly after the return of the Seventy, Jesus warned that though the Ruler of this world is cast out, he is far from simply rolling over and giving up. Jesus said,

“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.” -Luke 11:24-26

Though defeated in that battle, the Amalekite’s were far from done bullying Israel. Over the next few decades, as Israel would come to occupy and prosper in the Land of Promise, they would have to deal with the Amalekites. This time however, Just as Jesus notes, they teamed up with other Canaanite residents (Moabites & Midianites) to come back at Israel in greater strength.

At one point, God desired to remove the Amalekite threat once and for all through Saul, Israel's first king. Saul however was one who struggled to honor God by obeying him. Rather than experiencing the spiritual victory, his defeat with God internally led to his failure physically. Saul learned a hard truth that Jesus wanted His Disciples to avoid.

*“For rebellion is as the sin of divination,
and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
he has also rejected you from being king.” -1 Samuel 15:23*

When we are distant from God spiritually (not in prayer / obeying His Word), we set ourselves up for failure. I see this time and time again in my own life, as well as those I pastor and council. The failure of Saul would empower the Amalekites to continue being a bullying threat to Israel for years to come. But God was far from done, even with Saul's disobedience.

4. **Appointed**, for such a time as this! (Esther 4:12-17)

And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.” Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.” -Esther 4:12-17

Haman, a descendent of the Amalekites had attained a position of influence and power. His hatred of the Jewish people is generationally and culturally alive and well in him. It is here we see God allowed him to arise to such a position for the purpose of displaying His presence and power to deliver and heal.

As Esther must have wondered how she could possibly make a difference, she appealed to He who could. Leading a fast and prayer to intercede allowed Esther and Mordecai, and greater the Nation of Israel, to experience a Spiritual victory against the real enemy behind Haman's plans. What happened as a result of this Spiritual victory?

“Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.” -Esther 7:9-10

This was the end of the Amalekite presence. A physical victory came forth as the fruit of a Spiritual victory accomplished through prayer and fasting, appealing to God as revealed through His Word.

It is here we come full circle again to what it means to be **appointed** by Jesus. We are sent out in similar fashion to the Twelve and then the Seventy to lift the Name of Jesus by which all people can know Salvation, Healing, Deliverance, Transformation- all because He has cast out the Ruler of darkness and is reigning over the Kingdom of light!

We are lights sent into this world, but not of this world (See [John 17:15-21](#)), to bear witness of Jesus and His Kingdom!

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. Therefore, be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light.” [-Luke 11:33-36](#)

Being in prayer and obeying God’s Word brings the victory spiritually; trust God’s timing with the fruit of this spiritual victory touching our physical circumstances. As we pursue seeing the outpouring of God’s Spirit upon us for this season of Revival, let us fast together, pray together, and experience the training and equipping of His Word through His Spirit for the work we are **appointed** by Jesus for!

This week I will be leading us in a fast again starting Wednesday evening for our LIVE Virtual prayer hour, 6:30-7:30, through Thursday at 6:30. I will be praying specifically over each of you for His Spirit to pour into you through vision of His anointing-

- What role will you serve in?
- What ministry is He whispering for you to put your hand toward?
- What areas of your life need to be surrendered to Him more?
- How are you growing in knowing Him through His Word?
- What gifting is the Spirit placing upon you and activating?

Remember, God provided as the Disciples went out seeking His Kingdom first. How will you experience Spiritual Victory in your life now? How will you serve Him today, tomorrow- amidst your family, neighbors, coworkers?

God’s Kingdom will come one heart at a time, beginning with yours. God desires to do a work in you before He does a work through you. *Blessings- Pastor Damian!*

You Are Appointed by Jesus!