

# New Kilpatrick Parish Church

Podcast

14th June 2020

Matthew 10:1-8

## Welcome

Hello, I'm Roddy Hamilton, the minister in New Kilpatrick and welcome to our worship podcast online or by phone. Thank you for inviting us to join you at whatever time you listen in and wherever you are. Being a podcast we've become fairly portable so wherever it is you are, in the kitchen or on a hillside, let's travel together today.

Let's pause as we centre ourselves

As the cross points out to the world  
it draws us in, close;  
as love turns us towards each other  
it pulls us, together;  
as faith begins a journey into life  
it calls us to share that life journey;  
so let us bring those experiences now  
and together tangle them  
in a space called worship,  
a space called God.

## Prayer

Living, breathing, knowing God,  
your work in the world never stops:  
growing,  
revealing,  
sourcing,  
sorting.

We come before you,  
ready to open our eyes, our hearts and  
minds  
to the values of the Kingdom.

Lift the veil this day that you might  
reveal to us  
the kaleidoscope of colour  
that reveals the full variety  
and brilliance of the activity  
and work of the Kingdom



that is all around us.

The Kingdom is real,  
it is here and it is waiting to welcome all  
for it is inclusive in its depth,  
it is for the whole of humanity  
and waiting to be explored.

You spoke to people and opened up the Kingdom of God.  
Its values shining through like sunlight;  
its vastness as deep as the oceans;  
its power to give life  
and grow whatever it touches  
equal to only the work of the Spirit.

Open our eyes to the true values of the Kingdom;  
how precious it is.  
Continue to reveal yourself, teach us,  
and call us to participate  
in your work in the world  
as the disciples before us have done.

And now, just as we are, we come before you as we say the Lord's Prayer:  
*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever.  
Amen*



## Reading Matthew 10:1-8

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

## Disciples Stories

The naive way of hearing that story is to imagine the disciples with a faith that thought all things were possible, and turning towards the world without question and entering it. The more realistic hearing, and perhaps more relatable to us now, would be to imagine: what was going through their minds at that moment...

### Disciple Story 1

We had been travelling to all the cities and villages with Jesus. He was doing so many good deeds and people were understanding what he was saying, and beginning to follow him, and change their ways. He lived, breathed, and understood God and what the message that needed proclaimed was. We only truly understood why later. Then one day, he said to us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

He then told all of us disciples that he had given us authority to go and do likewise; to teach and proclaim and heal everyone who needed healed. That is some responsibility. But did he really mean all authority was now on our heads? Did he expect us to go and do exactly as he had been doing? Us? Me? Without him being present.

I had been a follower and disciple of Jesus from the beginning, but this was a different ask than anything else before. Could I really do it and be up to scratch? How would people react when it was me and not Jesus who came to them? So many questions and not many answers to show for them!

I was about to set out on my own with nothing. I did not even have Jesus with me if things didn't go to plan. As I said, it was a big responsibility.

But I had faith in Jesus and knew I could trust in him. I had to place my trust in him that everything would go alright. Now was the time to find out. I, with my fellow disciples, were to continue Jesus' mission on our own two feet. We just had to trust as we had done since we were first called to follow him.

### Disciple Story 2

The world seemed a much easier place when you could rely on Jesus taking the flack from Pharisees, crowds, Romans, people crying out for help. In following seemed a

much easier idea when someone else had to answer peoples questions and respond to their problems.

It was inevitable that this time would come, we all knew it deep down, but when it happens, you realise how unprepared you are. But here we are. We're apostles now, being sent out into the world armed with... well very little, other than our experience of Jesus and what we've seen and heard.

Apparently it is enough. Jesus has turned us outward looking, he's un-circled the wagons, and instead of facing each other with our questions and confusion, we've to take these into the world on our own, and with them, proclaim the kingdom of God.

I know I am out my depth. What possible good can I be armed with questions and doubt? There is a great loss here. The focus has gone and the panic has set in: what does it mean to cure the leper, cast out demons and raise the dead? This is new ground for me and I am going out into the world armed with nothing more than confusion and a story to tell. It doesn't feel like much.

This is when you have to rely on that which is deep inside you, your core beliefs, your core understanding, and trust that. Maybe this is not a lesson about outcomes, but a lesson on what you trust will change things.

## Reading Matthew 10:1-8

A questioning, hesitant disciple that lacked confidence speaks louder to us now than one with blind faith that can take on dragons and all comers. But we may wish to re-imagine the passage itself. Here's the Message version:

Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives. This is the list of the twelve he sent:

Simon (they called him Peter, or "Rock"),  
Andrew, his brother,  
James, Zebedee's son,  
John, his brother,  
Philip,  
Bartholomew,  
Thomas,  
Matthew, the tax man,  
James, son of Alphaeus,  
Thaddaeus,  
Simon, the Canaanite,  
Judas Iscariot (who later turned on him).





Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge:

“Don’t begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don’t try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.

## Reflection

There is a moment when you have to grow up in faith, isn’t there. And that moment is not usually the moment all the dots connect and you get that ‘aha’ moment. When and if such dot connecting moment’s arrive, they seem to happen to only a few and rarely.

A growing-up moment in faith seems to be like this moment for the disciples. You are given responsibilities only to find you aren’t exactly ready for it. You’ve been enthused and encouraged along the way, you’ve seen and heard things you never believed possible, but when the moment comes you are left on your own, you hardly feel ready.

O boy, it is a shock.

Jesus is turning the disciples outward looking. They’ve had more insight than most. They’ve been the inner circle. But no longer. To find the kingdom of God, you have to do an about turn and look beyond the circled wagons, beyond the safe zone.

And the only way to get there, is to trust. It would have been handy to have written down all those things Jesus said, but you never thought about that at the time. Now you do, but even those pithy sayings and clever rebuts wouldn’t have helped.

The point is, this is a lesson not on what you remember Jesus saying, or if you can repeat Jesus response to Pharisees, Gentiles or lepers. This is a lesson on what you are going to rely on out there in the world. What is at your core? What deep down intuitive strength do you rely on?

I remember early in my training there was a mix-up about who was going to lead a prayer one morning, my boss or myself. I thought it was him. He thought it was me. I wasn’t going to argue as he was always right. The only problem was this was discovered just as we were beginning the service and I had never extemporised, ever having written down even the breathing marks in any script I used.

I have absolutely no idea what I said in that prayer but the minister’s wife congratulated me on the best prayer yet. She had no idea I was improvising and sweating blood. But the lesson was: what is at your core that you pull on at these times.

And as we turn towards some kind of lockdown easing, the lesson is exactly the same is it not. When the ground has shifted and we’ve passed the heroic stage of managing, busy looking after neighbours and everyone saying “we’ll all get through this’, a new

reality is settling. We're all moving through the disillusionment period, angry at leaders, statues, mistakes, wanting to blame people, because we can't change it back. We're heading towards the rebuilding stage.

This is where apostles, entrepreneurs of the faith, map out a new normal without any instructions. In the world, adrift from the old anchors, here we have to rely on what is core to us. What is essential, for on that we will rebuild and renew our communities and our church.

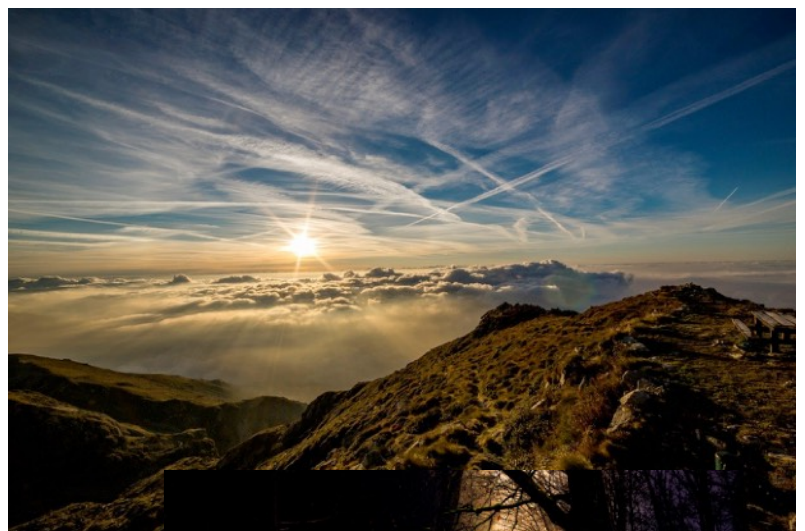
No blueprint. Just trust. It is a thinner place. A more honest place. Stripped down to what is essential. But it is the only place we can begin as we step out into the world, still unprepared, no idea what we are able to do, a lesson not on outcomes and who can reach the best version of the church the quickest, but on trusting what we have already been given deep down in ourselves.

## Prayer

Loving God  
Sending God  
encourage us  
as we turn outward  
facing the world  
with the fragile faith we have

angry at leaders  
angry at system that enslaved folk  
angry at the truth of our pasts  
steady us  
with those essential faithful gifts we  
have  
deep down  
of love  
and grace  
and truth

It doesn't feel like much  
and certainly doesn't feel enough  
yet it is what we have  
and what we have in our name  
may we then be  
not the church  
but the body of Christ  
the presence in our communities  
of the values  
the words  
the honesty



of the gospel

May we trust what we believe  
and believe what we know  
and know what we trust  
that we can begin from here  
fragile and vulnerable as we feel

but speak the truth  
that renews our church and community  
that black lives matter  
that caring for the least is the measure of who we are  
that redesigning a world that begins where the least are is our intent  
that those who care and keep our communities going and put themselves at risk are our celebrities now

Loving God  
Sending God  
encourage us  
as we turn outward  
facing the world  
with the fragile faith we have  
that we become  
those apostles today  
entrepreneurs of the faith  
in the name of love  
in the name of truth  
in the name of justice

So be it  
Amen



## Benediction

Go into the world  
the entrepreneurs of the gospel  
apostles of love's story  
and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
the Love of God  
and the commonwealth of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all  
So be it

Thank you for letting us accompany you today. It is a joy to be able to share these travelling days when we hardly move any physical distance, but emotionally we move continents.

Thank you to Jeanette Peel who helped write and present this podcast, along with Jan and Ernest Cormie and Walter Proven we joined us in curating it today.

But this only the lay-by we offer to recharge and reflect on the days and week that go by. You can meet us daily online at [nkchurch.org.uk](https://nkchurch.org.uk) and all the activities there, on facebook, instagram and twitter. We've a bundle of zoom events each week, daily prayers written freshly each day, a new psalm for lockdown each week and food bank and community appeals. But also we just phone each other and that's good too.

So while we might not be able to meet in church, we do meet as church. Thank you for the invitation to join you. Stay safe and keep well. Let's make a date for next time.

