

## Opportunities and Threats, week 3:

### Local Mission

August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 by Kasey Crawford

**Today's Passages: Hebrews 10:39, Matthew 9:35-10:15**

We are in the midst of a cultural earthquake...

**But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. Hebrews 10:39**

Rather than shrink back, this is a time to rise up, to dig in to the goodness of God and then advance the Kingdom of God (in us and through us) to our families, our city, our state and nation.

Today's Threat: "Lower the sails." Give up on all that "mission" stuff for a while.

Today's Opportunity: God's mission never stops!

### 3 Core Truths to believe about mission (and put into practice)

1. (Kingdom) Harvest is \_\_\_\_\_!

**Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;<sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38**

We can trust that the Spirit of God is at work, drawing people to him, preparing the soil of hearts; and he is looking for willing partners on mission who he can send out into His harvest.

2. God will set up divine appointments with People of \_\_\_\_\_ in your sphere of influence, if you are willing.

A Person of Person, is simply someone who is interested and ready to \_\_\_\_\_ the message. **(Matthew 10:13-14)**

Not everyone is ready to receive the message. If that's the case, you have permission to move on (and maybe come back later) and instead invest where someone is ready to receive (a Person of Peace).

3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and available for God for to show you new opportunities when others have closed.

For example, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries, as 2 plagues ravaged Europe, most typical "mission" methods were shut down. But the church adapted. While most people fled the cities to get away from the infected, many Christians stayed and nursed their family, friends and even "pagan" neighbors.

As a result, the ratio of Christians to non-Christians in the Roman Empire grew from 1 in 250, to 1 in \_\_\_\_\_.

Being available and willing to sacrificially serve with compassion, during a time of crisis, changed neighbors, changed cities, and changed an \_\_\_\_\_; which changed the course of history.

### Responding to God...

Do you believe, pray and act like the "harvest is plentiful?"

What spheres of influence has God given you? What are you doing to keep those relationships strong?

How are you looking for "divine appointments?"

What "people of peace" has God put in your life?

Answers: plentiful, peace, receive, adaptable, 4, empire