

Acts 1:8 13-week Sermon Series, Sermon 9  
State/Province emphasis of the Acts 1:8 Challenge  
Sermon Outline by Nicholas Melazzo

**Sermon Title: On the Road to Our Judea**

**Sermon Scripture: [Luke 10:1-20](#)**

**Introduction:**

God has sent His church as a witness to the whole world, locally, regionally, and globally. Acts 1:8 records Jesus' command to the church to be His witness in all these contexts, but this was not the first time He had sent His disciples out as Judean missionaries. In Luke 10, Jesus sends 72 disciples ahead of Him to preach the good news to the towns and villages He planned to visit. If God is sending us to our Judea, then it will be good for us to know how Jesus sent His disciples out to theirs. (Read Luke 10:1-20.)

For Jesus' disciples, these places were close to home. The people in these towns and villages shared their language and culture. They may have even traveled to or through these places before, whether for work, visiting family, or on their way to the temple in Jerusalem. Even though these places were close both geographically and culturally, they were far from the gospel. Just like the disciples in Jesus' day, there are people in our Judea who speak our language and share our culture, who look like us and sound like us, but they are still far away from the kingdom of God. They need someone to bring them the good news of the gospel, and to live it out among them.

**I. Jesus Sent Them Out to be Among the People.**

We all know how long it can take for the people close to us to come into a relationship with Jesus. Some people hear about Jesus and immediately follow Him, but others take longer.

We pray for them, serve them, talk through their struggles with faith, and finally they come to that point where they are ready to follow Christ. If it takes this much effort and faithfulness where we live, we shouldn't be surprised that it takes just as much in the places where we don't. If we're going to be a witness to our region, our Judea, we must go

and spend time among people who are outside the immediate reach of our church and our lives.

- A. When Jesus sent His disciples out in Luke 10, He gave them specific instructions. He told them not to take money, a traveler's bag, or extra shoes. He told them not to greet people along the way, but to go to a place and stay there. He told them not to move from house to house, but to find one person of peace and stay with that person as long as they were in that same town. He told them, if they were rejected, to move on to the next town and do the same thing all over again. Jesus wasn't sending them out to wander about proclaiming the gospel to passersby. He wasn't sending them out to quickly share the message and move on. When He sent them to Judea, He sent them to find people that needed a witness, and to be amongst them as His ambassadors, living out the same message that they preached. They were to represent Him so much that if they were rejected, it would literally be rejecting Jesus who sent them. They brought a message, but they brought more than a message; they brought themselves, and in themselves, they manifested the Messiah.
- B. [John 1:14](#) -Jesus modeled this way of reaching the world. When God came for us, the Word took on human flesh and lived with us, so that we could see His love and faithfulness. The message and the messenger were one.

*Illustration: Suppose that God was calling us to reach out to a large community of hockey players and fans in our area. Many of us drive by rinks full of people and parking lots full of cars on Saturdays, and on our way to Sunday worship. Suppose we formed a team and set aside money to reach these people. What do you think would happen if we held a special hockey themed Sunday, after which we would all watch the game together on a big screen with snacks and fellowship time? Would many people come, with games on Sunday, and the rinks spread across town? Probably not. When that didn't work, suppose we sent people out to put tracts and invitations on the cars in the rink parking lots, and that we even had people pass out tracts and evangelize people in the stands. There would probably be some response, but would it be what we were hoping for? Now*

*suppose we felt so burdened for this community that we sent ten people out to play hockey. They'd buy the gear, acquire the skills, and join some teams. We'd pray for them, and support them. We'd pass out water during the games and help pick up the stands after the games. Their friends and families from the church would go out to cheer them on, and eventually we'd be watching the big games at their houses on their big screens. And suppose that all this time we were living as followers of Jesus amongst them, helping out, losing graciously, and even more impressively, winning graciously. And of course, we talk about Jesus all the time, because He's the reason we live the way we live. Imagine the impact we might have. Imagine the difference we could make to all those people.*

## II. **Jesus Sent Them Together.**

Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs, but he actually had bigger teams than that in mind. Jesus sent them out in pairs to find and stay with a person of peace. In this way, He was actually sending them out to proclaim His message and do His work in groups of three or more. [Ecclesiastes 3:7-12](#) tells us just how much help it is to have one or two friends. When Elijah is in despair and ready to give up in I Kings 19, God encourages him by showing him that he's not alone, and gives him Elisha as a friend and helper. Once we know to whom God is sending us, we must never go alone. God is sending His church, and He doesn't want us to go alone, but to go with one another to our Judea. If He's calling you, He's very likely calling others from the church to go with you.

*Illustration: Imagine that you know that God wants you to reach out to a community of artists in our area. Suppose that you've never sold anything or put anything on display, but you enjoy painting, and you know a little bit about classic and contemporary art. So you figure out where the artists in the area spend their time and you join them, attending exhibitions, finding studio space where you can paint and create with others who share pointers and encourage each other, and you hang out at the cafés and restaurants that they frequent in the city. You pray for them, and try talking to them about Jesus, but you're always outnumbered, and nobody ever seems that interested in coming to church. How hard would it be to stay consistent in your witness and keep talking about Jesus? How hard would it be to resist the temptation to view "artistic" displays that are immoral and against the things you stand for? How tempting would it be for you to adopt their lifestyles in an effort to build relationships and keep friends? Now imagine you do the same things, but two other*

*people from the church go with you, one a painter and another a sculptor, and you covenant together to live the way of Jesus out amongst these people. How much courage would you lend each other as you shared? How much accountability could you lend each other as you sought to live the way of Jesus in the midst of people who don't follow Him? Just like David's three friends in the court of Babylon, when you go together you will not only hold each other up, you will be a better witness to those around you, who will be able to see your love and commitment to Jesus in your love and commitment to each other.*

### **III. Jesus Sent Them in the Spirit's Power.**

In Acts 1:8 Jesus told them that they would be His witnesses *after* the Holy Spirit came on them. In Luke 10 we see Him command His disciples to do what He did, loving people, healing people, and casting out demons. Even greater than this, and the real reason they should rejoice, was people's inclusion in heaven by the power of the gospel. While we may not do all these things, God still gives us His Spirit to go with us on mission, and to empower the message of the gospel and our acts of love and service to bring people to salvation.

- A. [Acts 1:4-5](#) - We can depend on the Holy Spirit by waiting for His direction and call, and by asking Him who it is that He is sending us to in our Judea.
- B. [Luke 10:2](#) - We can depend on the Holy Spirit by praying for more workers to go with us into the harvest.
- C. [Acts 10](#) - We can depend on the Spirit by trusting Him to be at work in places in our Judea even before we arrive.

#### **Conclusion:**

In John 17:20-21, God has called us to reach our Judea. Who do you know in our region that has no consistent witness? Who will go with you to be among them and share the good news? Will you pray for God to send you out into your Judea? Ask Him where He's at work, and pray to the Lord of the Harvest to raise up others who will go with you.