



# SERMON RECAP

## SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

### Change happens with Collaboration

Series: The Change Makers

Scripture: Mark 6:30-44 and Luke 10:1-11

Isn't it funny how a word's connotation can shift, just by changing its part of speech? Our theme for this week is collaboration. It is a wonderful concept. To collaborate is to work together, to find partners, and build a team. For changemakers, collaboration increases creativity, ideas, and talents. But when you make the word a noun, you have a collaborator, and being a collaborator suddenly sounds more secretive, possibly sinister, or at least adversarial.

And that is why it is such a perfect word to use to describe what is happening in Luke 10:1-11. When Jesus sends out the 72 (or seventy depending on translation) to go out and share the gospel, he is showing the power of collaboration. He is also helping to find collaborators. Both connotations of the word are applicable.

To get a full picture of what Jesus was building, it helps to understand the historical context. When a Roman official entered a town in Galilee or Judea, they would come into the town center and declare, "Hear the Good News! The Peace of Rome has come upon you." They would share needed news, and then go to the town leaders, and in particular the local tax collector.

The reception of a Roman official was not based on hospitality. The Peace of Rome was enforced by the threat of horrific violence. The "good news" that the official brought was that the Emperor would not destroy the town - as long as the taxes were collected.

Now let's look at what Jesus told the 72 to do. He was intentionally building a movement by collaborating with partners. Sometimes we get the idea from the way we read the Bible that Jesus just wandered around getting into situations. We have this idea that he was a hero in an old spaghetti western, wandering from town to town at random. This passage reveals however, that he was intentional. The 72 were preparing towns for the work for what he was doing. This was the ground work for his trip to Jerusalem and the organized demonstration that occurred on what we call Palm Sunday. Even Jesus, the Son of God, realized that



## COLLABORATION

strong movements need collaboration. Real change happens when many people work together, not just a select few.

As a church, we are collaborating in powerful ways. We are building a coalition with other United Methodist Churches - sharing moments of worship and building a confirmation experience for our youth. We are building a coalition with other Affirming Congregations, knowing that the work we do for LGBTQ people needs to be amplified in the face of growing cultural opposition.

And herein lies the edgier side of collaboration. Jesus was finding collaborators. He was finding people who were going to operate differently than Rome. He called them to go into a town and find those "who share God's peace." Find those who share God's peace - and work with them.

He told them: depend on their hospitality, but do not exploit it. Go to those who share God's peace, and don't try to work your way up. Find those who share God's peace, not the powerful and influential. Find your collaborators - as sheep among wolves. There was a dangerous edge to what they were doing. And if they were not accepted, show that they were different than the Roman officials. Just walk away. Jesus was finding collaborators who would operate differently than Rome - underneath the surface. They were sent to find those who loved God's peace - not Roman peace.

So too are we called. There are 77 people in this sanctuary today. What if we were all collaborators with Christ? We are called to be collaborators in a conspiracy of love. This is a counter-cultural movement of making change as we find other collaborators who love Peace - not Empire. Find your people. Find your team. Find others who want to join in a revolution as collaborators for love.

**NEXT WEEK:**

**Change Makers: Creativity, Luke 7:36-50 and Mark 6:30-44**