Sermon

November 13 & 14, 2021

We are motivated by what burdens us. Some of us are concerned about climate change. If we are, we are making all kinds of adjustments to lessen our carbon footprint. Some of us are weighed down by our family situation. If we are, we are seeking counsel and investing in family relationships. Some of us are burdened by health concerns. If we are, we are taking measures to follow medical counsel and making lifestyle adjustments to ensure we stay healthy. Some of us are concerned about our financial situation. If we are, we are giving attention to income and savings and investments. What weighs on you today?

What weighed on Jesus? In Matthew 8 and 9, Jesus is going from village to village. As He goes, He sees people and feels compassion. He sees sheep without a shepherd. The sheep are harassed (troubled, worried, bewildered) and helpless (exhausted, can't get up, can't rescue themselves). That is what Jesus sees. According to Jesus, the sheep are "lost." That means they are dying, being destroyed. Does it burden Him? Does it weigh on us?

Jesus says . . .

- Go under my authority. I have all authority in heaven and on earth.
- Go with your team. I will transform you along the way.
- Live according to your specific everyday assignment.
- Share the good news joyfully. I will minister through you.
- Trust me and share freely. I will take care of you.
- Be ready to extend my peace to those who will receive you.
- Be prepared for rejection. I was rejected by many.

Questions for Reflection:

- What weighs on you today? Do you carry Jesus' burden?
- Are you aware of your specific assignment? What is it?
- Who is Jesus asking you to bless with his peace (today, this week)? How will you bless them (a visit, the message of Jesus, an encouraging word, a prayer, a gift, an action)?

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Please continue to pray for the elders.

If you wish to contact an elder, please email elders@willingdon.org.