

**July 8, 2018 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Rev. Jen Nagel, University Lutheran Church of Hope**

**Mark 6:1-13**

(Adapted line on vocation from Frederick Buechner)

**Let us pray: Oh God, send your creating and redeeming spirit into our community this morning, invite us, engage us, open us to Living Word, and renew our hearts. Amen.**

**“He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over the unclean spirits.”**

This morning, I invite you to hear the Good News from one another, and with one another.

I invite you into an “I wonder, I notice” sermon.

Some of you have experienced this before; for others it’s new.

In an “I wonder, I notice” sermon, we’re all preachers.

We’re all called to engage the scripture.

**You’ve heard me read the Gospel once already.**

In a few minutes I’ll read it again, slowly.

Your job is to interrupt me—and I mean it.

Interrupt using a phrase that begins either “I wonder... (whatever you wonder)” or “I notice...”

I’ll repeat what you say so that it’s amplified and all can hear it better.

After that, another person may jump in with something they wonder or notice,  
or I’ll continue until I’m interrupted again.

**So today it may sound like this at the beginning,**

**“Jesus left that place and came to his hometown...”**

I notice that *Jesus is on the move again.*

I wonder *if Jesus felt like an adult as he returned, or if he felt like he was still a kid coming home?*

**Remember, only two rules...**

1. **There are no wrong answers**, let the Spirit lead us as a community.

You may feel like you don’t know enough, but really those can be the best interruptions.

Your job is to interrupt... It only works if you do.

2. **Use the structure. Begin your interruption with I wonder... or I notice...**

**Ready? Are your voices ready? My name is Jen; what’s your name? Turn to the person next to you, tell them the name of your hometown.**

[READ]

**Thank you!**

**Let's continue in this same spirit for a little longer.**

If you haven't had a chance to speak, this is your time:

Still using the "I wonder, I notice" structure, still beginning what you say with I notice or I wonder:

What else did you notice? What else did you wonder?

**Thank you!**

**Let me offer a few things I've been wondering and noticing.**

**I notice that Jesus wasn't always successful.**

And I notice that we (or I, at least) usually assume he was successful.

But he hit the hometown-wall and things didn't work out well,

and still he had the wisdom to creatively change direction:

to leave and find another context,

to send out others, to do what he could.

**I wonder about that line where Jesus tells them to shake off the dust from their feet.**

I notice that Jesus has good boundaries...and he coaches the disciples to have good boundaries too:

Do what you can do, he tells them, and if they don't welcome you, then leave, move on.

**I notice that when Jesus sends them out, there is such simplicity**

Take your staff, wear your sandals, but no extras, no frills, no need.

Live by trust.

I wonder where in our lives we are living with this kind of trust, this kind of simplicity?

And where we need to practice living this way a little more?

**Finally, I notice the language of call: He called the twelve and sent them out...**

to proclaim, to share God's amazing story, and to be healers in a broken world.

By the waters of baptism, we are all called to this in our own ways...sharing the story, healing the world.

We tap into our God-given gifts,

living at the intersection of our greatest joy and the worlds greatest need,  
following our calling,  
following Jesus' call  
that shapes our relationships,  
that guides our career path,  
that claims our time and energy, our head space and our heart space—that's vocation.

Today we're honoring three people who have reached milestone anniversaries in their vocation.

Edward Nyhus celebrates 60 years of ordination as a pastor and teacher.

John Setterlund celebrates 50 years of ordination and Pastor Barbara celebrates 25 years.

**In this simple and beautiful way, Jesus sends people out, to share the story, to heal.**

Ed and his spouse Winnie were sent to Indonesia.

They spent more than 30 years there with communities there—living and teaching the gospel.

John served all over South Dakota, then as a Lutheran campus pastor at the University of Illinois.

In retirement he nurtures a relationship with the church in Palestine.

Pastor Barbara served in settings like Willmar, Devils Lake, and Grand Junction,

and now we are blessed here at Hope by her ministry with us.

Later in our service we'll honor and pray for them, and in doing that we pray for one another:

for the ways that Jesus calls each of us and sends us out, and

for opportunities to celebrate what God has done and what God is still doing!

**Would you pray with me:** Gracious God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.