

Luke 10:1-16

October 11, 2020

(Luke 10:1-16) <sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. <sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

## COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- As followers of Jesus, what is our role and responsibility in bringing others to faith in Him? What is God's responsibility in this?
- What is the relationships between these two roles? How do we sometimes get these two roles mixed up?

As hard as we try to make our lost friends and family members believe in Christ for salvation, we cannot. To become a Christian requires being born again—a feat only God can accomplish. One of the distinguishing marks of Christianity is the belief that we cannot convert anyone by ourselves—salvation is a work of God that is received by repentance and faith. Understanding this distinguishing mark will help us better understand our role in delivering and demonstrating the gospel to our lost friends and family.

## CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Luke 10:1-16

Jesus had just finished teaching on the cost of discipleship with Him. Jesus then sent out 72 dedicated disciples with stringent requirements. The result was a series of tremendous spiritual victories.

- How would you describe the work assigned to the 35 pairs in Luke 10:1-4?
- What were the disciples to leave behind? How might these items get in the way of fulfilling our responsibilities as Jesus' disciples?
- Are there other items you want to mention that can interfere with fulfilling our responsibilities to Jesus?
- What kind of household guests were these disciples to be? Why did that matter?

The 72 were to trust God to provide for their needs on the journey. Jesus told them not to carry a money bag, backpack, or sandals. They were not to weigh themselves down with excess baggage but travel light and depend on the Lord to take care of them. We often are willing to follow Jesus only if all our material

needs are guaranteed. Jesus wants disciples who will serve in faith, believing He is willing and able to meet their needs. Fulfilling the responsibilities of being a disciple means serving Jesus Christ in faith—trusting Him to care for us in difficult situations and to provide for our needs.

- According to verses 8-12, what was the basic message of these disciples?
- How do these verses show the urgency Jesus Himself sensed for evangelism? What was the reason for this urgency?

Jesus did not want the 72 to argue, debate, or cajole people concerning the gospel. The gospel does not have to be explained so much as proclaimed. Also, the message is not complicated but is quite simple: the kingdom of God has come near you. Wherever Jesus comes, people have the choice of receiving Him and in doing so, accepting the reign of God in their lives. Showing compassion for the people's temporal needs would help the disciples find a more receptive audience for the eternal message of salvation.

- In verse 10, Jesus acknowledged that some people would not welcome them, just as the Samaritans hadn't welcomed Him in Luke 9:51-56. How do people today show they welcome our ministry and/or the gospel? Reject our ministry and/or the gospel?
- How does welcome or rejection impact what we can do in serving Jesus?
- What attitudes and actions on our part might help someone be more welcoming toward us and our service as Jesus' disciples?
- Look at verse 16. What is the comfort and the danger of aligning oneself with Jesus?

Not everyone would accept the disciples or their message. However, they were to minister in Christ's name, demonstrating the power of His love and proclaiming the imminence of His reign.

## COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- What is the single most difficult part of following Christ for you? What is something you can do this week to improve in that area?
- What are some challenges to sharing the gospel/living on mission in today's COVID society?
- What would change in your life if you made the decision daily to choose the cross over comfort, God's mission over maintaining the status quo, and sacrifice over selfishness? What needs to happen to make this change?
- What do you think could happen in our neighborhood if everyone in our church partnered together to follow Jesus with less distraction?

**PRAYER:** Thank God for sending Jesus as the ultimate Lamb who willingly suffered on our behalf so that we might be saved. Thank Him for saving us by His grace. Pray that we would willingly take the gospel to wolves, and, in so doing, learn to trust Him more. Ask God to deepen our affections for Him, our passion for His kingdom, and our willingness to share the gospel with others.

### OUR VISION

To be a church  
for the unchurched,  
here and around the world.

### ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW  
GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a  
way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.

10:1 Though not mentioned in 9:1-6, Jesus had apparently sent out the apostles previously in pairs (see Mk 6:7). In this verse He sent out 70 other followers to cover Judea with the message of good news in advance of His coming.

10:2 Christ seems to be saying that, as abundant as the spiritual harvest was, the 70 whom He sent out to preach were not enough. There was need for many more to take the message, and prayers must be offered to meet this need.

10:3 Lambs among wolves was a common metaphor in Judaism for being in a dangerous situation.

10:5-6 Peace (Hb shalom) was a traditional Jewish greeting. But the word actually speaks of wholeness or well-being. Son of is a Jewish expression meaning "one characterized by" (Ac 4:36). In this context, "son of peace" and your peace appear to relate to the 70 followers who were offering the message of peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ (Rm 5:1).

10:7 The worker is worthy of his wages is a basic principle of fairness. This was quoted by the apostle Paul in making his case for ministers of God's Word being paid for their work (1Tim 5:17-18).

10:8-9 If the 70 disciples were made welcome in a town, it indicated that the hearts of the people were open to the gospel message. In some sense, the present tense aspects of the kingdom of God were present in the preaching of the gospel and the healing ministry delegated by Jesus to the 70.

10:12 That day is the day of judgment. Sodom was destroyed by the Lord because of its sin (Gen 19:23).

10:13-14 Chorazin and Bethsaida were towns in Galilee near Capernaum. Tyre and Sidon were Gentile cities in Phoenicia on the Mediterranean coast northwest of Galilee. Sackcloth and ashes were worn by those in mourning, sometimes as an expression of repentance from sin (Neh 9:1; Jnh 3:5).

10:15 Jesus spent more time in ministry in Capernaum than anywhere else in Galilee. Yet, in their arrogance (exalted to heaven), the people of this city rejected Jesus and, as a result of their unbelief, would be sent to Hades (death, the realm of death or punishment beyond the grave).

10:16 The principle here is that rejection of the disciples is ultimately rejection of God the Father (the One who sent Me), for the Father sent the Son and the Son in turn sent out the 70 disciples to preach and heal (vv. 1,9). Since they were commissioned by Christ, to listen to the 70 was like listening to Jesus Himself. Likewise, to reject the 70 was to reject Jesus. Finally, to reject Jesus was to reject God the Father.