

APPOINTMENT REMINDERS | LUKE 10:1-24 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 12/7/2025

*I. Appointed to Go (1-11) | II. Appointed to Judgment (12-16) | III. Appointed Blessings (17-24)

INTRO: As we move into Chapter 10, Jesus continues to spread the message of the Kingdom throughout the land. – Previously **He sent the 12 apostles to minister in Galilee (9:1-11; Matt 10).** – Now He would expand His outreach to include that land of **Judea, Appointing Additional Disciples** to prepare His way.*

I. APPOINTED TO GO (1-11) – **READ:** Last week we ended Chapter 9 with **Jesus challenging three would-be disciples** to **Count the Cost of Discipleship** (Luke 9:57-62) – **Now Jesus Appointed 70 others to GO!**

A. The Sending (1-3) – **“70 were Appointed”** and **SENT**, into every city that He was about to go. – In (Num 11:16, 25-26) we learn that **Moses also commissions 70 elders as representatives.** – Elsewhere in scripture **we find the number 70:** Years of Captivity (Jer 25:11-12); Weeks of Daniel (Dan 9); Men of the Sanhedrin; and in (Gen 10) we find **70** as the number of nations (rep the whole world, which is the Target!). *Now he sends them...*

1. Two By Two (1) – (Eccl 4:9-12) *tells us that two are better than one!* **Two witnesses** is mentioned **10x’s** throughout scripture, but I want to highlight two: **(2 Cor 13:1)** *“By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.”* AND **(Heb 10:28)** *“Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.”* *(Going out in Two’s was essential!)*

- Notice also that Jesus, *“Sent them before His face”* NOT to “sow seeds,” **but to Bring in the Harvest!** – Today especially, *people are ripe for the picking...* But the laborers are few!

2. The Prayer (2) – **“His Harvest”** – Jesus considered the multitude of humanity to be *like a harvest field* ready for gathering. **A massive field** with only a few people working diligently. – This is why **He instructed the LABORERS to PRAY!** – Instead of praying for an easy job, they were to pray for more LABORERS... **Not Spectators!** – We must be willing to go ourselves to do the work in the field! – **PRAY!**

P/A – If we believe that Jesus is coming back soon, then we should respond to Jesus’ GREAT Commission!

3. The Caution (3) – **“Lambs amongst wolves”** – Jesus informed them that **there would be opposition** from people, which is often influenced by unbelievers, **so be cautious!** – When you start **praying to bring in the harvest,** **Satan begins laying traps for you.** – We too must know that *“Any disciple who takes Jesus Christ seriously becomes a target of the devil!”*

P/A – *He’s not sending us out with a shotgun or high-powered rifle!* – When **Appointed to Go, we GO as are lambs,** walking in humility (Matt 10:16) – Going as lambs among wolves doesn’t sound very attractive; yet it was **exactly how Jesus was sent,** and how the power of God worked through Him mightily.

B. The Instructions for Homes (4-7) – Here, Jesus provides specific instructions for their journey...

- 1. Re: Provisions (4a)** – **“Money bag, knapsack, nor extra sandals”** – **Go as you are,** without supplies! *(Trust!)*
- 2. Re: Path (4b)** – **“Greet NO ONE!”** – *Jesus’ mission was of great urgency,* so they must stay focused! – Sharing a meal in those days would often include prolonged delays. *(Don’t become distracted on your mission!)*
- 3. Re: Peace (5-6)** – **“Let your peace rest on it”** – Their presence brought **Peace and Blessings** into a home! – If a disciple was welcomed in a house, it was because a **“son of peace”** is lived there. – **If they were rejected,** their peace would not rest on the house. *This teaches us a good principle for life...*

- **Have you ever visited a home where you feel not welcomed?** – When you encounter this, **LEAVE** because you are not welcome there! – **And when you leave, take your peace with you!**

4. Re: **Premises (7)** – “*remain in one house, receiving their provisions*” – In order to make a greater impact, the disciples were to **set-up a Home Base** so they could effectively reach a whole city. – Moving around often would be a waste of time. – Also, they were to **be Content with the Provisions offered by others as they ministered**. – This Principle is often **Abused** or simple **Excused...** (*Expound*) – But it is **Biblical...**

- (1 Cor 9:14) *Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.*
- (1 Tim 5:18), “*You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,*” and “*The laborer is worthy of his wages*”

C. The Instructions for Cities (8-11) – Jesus also gives His disciples **specifics** as they **evangelized the city...**

1. Re: **Reception (8-9)** – *If they were received* ... they could **eat** in that town, which lead to ministry: Healing and the Proclamation, that ... “**The Kingdom was Near!**” (*Learn to discern when people are receptive*)
2. Re: **Rejection (10-11)** – *If rejected...* the disciples were to; **1) Abandon that city to its own fate! 2) “Wipe the cities dust from their sandals,”** which indicated that would have no part with them, **3) They were to make clear that, “The Kingdom of God was near!”** (*But they were obviously not worthy of it!*)

P/A – **These Ambassadors were Appointed to GO and proclaim the 1st coming of the Lord.** – They were to pick through each city and Bring in the Harvest that was ripe for gathering.

- Likewise, If we are disciples of Christ then we are also called to be **Ambassadors for Christ!** – (2 Cor 5:20) *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.*
- We **ARE CALLED** to **PROCLAIM**, “**The RETURN of the Lord,**” **which is near!** – So then, we too should sense the urgency of the times. – I like what **Wiersbe** said, “*whether we are in the harvest field, on the highway, or in the home, our highest privileged and our greatest joy is to do the Will of God.*” (*Is this your will?*)

II. APPOINTED TO JUDGMENT (12-16) – **READ:** In this section Jesus speaks **Warning** and **Judgment** to those who **REJECT** the message of the Gospel. – Jesus **specifically mentions** three Ancient Cities that were **previously judged by God:** **SODOM** (v.12; Gen 19), **TYRE** (v.13; Ezek 26-28), and **SIDON** (v.14; Isa 23).

A. The Warning (12) – Jesus makes clear that “*the city*” (10-11), **who rejects their message**, would receive a **Future Judgment** ... one even **More Severe** than the **Judgment inflicted on SODOM!** (*Fire & Brimstone*)

B. The Woes (13-15) – Jesus then lists **Three PARTICULAR Cities of Galilee**, which was also determined for judgment.

1. **Chorazin and Bethsaida (13-14)** – These **two cities** were privileged to witness **all the miracles that took place** in their town by Jesus and his disciples; referred to as... **Mighty works!**
 - So, He pronounced a **WOE** upon them! – The word “*Woe*” indicates judgment, “*One*” for each city.
 - I find it interesting that **Chorazin** means “*a furnace of smoke,*” **Bethsaida** means “*house of fish.*” – **When you combine the two cities on Judgment day, you get Smoked-Fish!** (*Ha*)
 - He compares these cities to **TYRE** and **SIDON**, who “*would have*” **repented in their day (long ago)**. He even lists the potential extent of their repentant act: “**Sackcloth and Ashes.**”
 - Jesus then makes clear that **TYRE** and **SIDON** will face a lesser judgment than these cities! **WOE!**
2. **Capernaum (15)** – *The city was exalted because of Jesus’ presence... He made His headquarters there!* – But it too would be judged, **BROUGHT DOWN to HADES**, because the majority of the town did not believe!

3. The Standard Jesus uses is an **Accountability to the Light Received!** – (John 3:20) declares, “*For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*” (Condemnation)
4. The Same Standard **is still in effect today!** – Sadly... **MANY** cities, states and even countries have **REJECTED the Light of the Gospel!**
 - A simple search on the internet revealed that **Providence, Rhode Island** frequently **appears as the least "Bible-minded" city** in studies by the American Bible Society. – According to ranker.com, coming in Second is: **Albany/Schenectady/Troy, NY**. – And Third is **Boston, MA** and **Manchester, NH**. – Followed by **San Francisco/Oakland/San Jose, California** & **Las Vegas, Nevada**: These are often included in **lists of less religiously-inclined urban centers**. (<https://www.ranker.com/list/most-godless-cities-in-america/robert-wabash>)
 - Furthermore, **China, North Korea, and Vietnam** are **officially ATHEIST States** where religion is suppressed or controlled! – So many governments have **Rejected the Light of the Gospel!** – And if they don't repent, woes are coming!

C. The Warrant (16) – *Jesus concludes His instruction to the 70*, with the **Reality of their Reception or their Rejection** by some. – If the cities to which they travel “*Hears and Receives*” their preaching of the Gospel, *then they are receiving both the Son and the Father*. – But if the cities “*Reject the Messengers*”, then they **rejecting** Jesus and the Father! – **Wow...** Jesus places their representation on the same level with the **SON AND THE FATHER!** (*they should remember that they were His representatives and not take it personally!*)

P/A – *The more one hears God's truth, the more we are accountable to it!* – And those who Reject it are **APPOINTED TO JUDGMENT!** (cf. Heb 10: 26-31)

III. APPOINTED BLESSINGS (17-24) – In this third section Luke reveals Several Blessings that stem from their mission: **READ (17-20)** – *The duration of the mission is not known...* it could have been several weeks, but *the 70 returned with Great Joy!* – Spurgeon points out, “*Not one of the lambs had been eaten by the wolves.*”

A. Report of the Disciples (17) – The disciples told Jesus of their encounters with demons, which yielded to them... in Jesus' Name! – The word **subject** (Grk. “*hupotasso*”), a military word to “*line up under*” authority. – It's possible that they were **especially overjoyed** because in (v.9), Jesus only told the seventy “what to do,” **He did not give them the authority to cast out devils** like He did with the twelve disciples in (9:1-2).

B. Refocus of Jesus (18-20) – Their report prompted **Three Re-actions from Jesus:**

1. **He Recalls the Fall of Satan (18)** – Jesus associates *the casting out of demons that they experienced*, to “*a time*” when *He saw Satan fall like lightning*. – **There are many interpretations to Jesus' statement...**
 - Many assume that this speaks of **Satan's first fall**, from a glorified state to a profaned state, as a result of his **PRIDE** (cf. Isa 14:12-14; Ezek 28:12-15; 1 Tim 3:6) – But according to (Job 1:12, 1 Kings 22:21, and Zech 3:1), **Satan still has access to heaven!**
 - Others say it refers to **Satan's fall in the future**, ***when he is cast out of heaven*** (Rev 12:9)
 - But here, the Fall “*like lightning*” ***from heaven*** **doesn't mean** that Jesus is describing either reference. – **Context suggests** that He is describing Satan's Fall ***as dramatic and sudden, as a bolt of lightning from heaven.*** – What then is Jesus saying?
 - Most likely: ***It refers best to the defeat of Satan by Jesus in the wilderness, (Luke 4:1-12).*** (*He overcame him*)
 - Thus, **the disciples' victory over evil spirits WAS PROOF** that Satan had lost his position of control and strength and was now in a lesser position. (*Later, Jesus completely disarms all demonic forces* – Col 2:15)

2. He Reinforces Their Authority (19) – *Jesus then gives Authority to them over all the power of the enemy!* – This authority also allows US to *trample on the enemy* as he seeks to war against the saints (cf. Mark 16:17)

3. He Redirects their Focus (20) – He tells them *not to rejoice in their power over demons*, but to *rejoice because their NAMES are written in heaven!* – Re: **Names**, the verb indicates they “*have been written*,” and they **STAND** written... in heaven! (Phil 4:3; Rev 2:17,13:8) *lit. Inscribed!* (Isa 49:16)

C. Rejoicing of Jesus (21-22) – **READ:** *Jesus then offers Joyful thanksgiving to the Father (21a)* – Notice here that the Son rejoiced in the Spirit with gratitude towards God. (i.e., *thrilled with joy in the Holy Spirit, exulted!*)

1. At the Father’s Revelation (21b) – He praises God for revealing the kingdom to the “*babes*” (the disciples) and NOT to the *wise and learned* (Jewish teachers); giving them the privilege of seeing and hearing what many Prophets and Kings *desired to see and hear*. (God’s ways amazing!)

- **The greatest realization to focus on is the Reality of Salvation!** – *That He would save a wretch like me!* – Don’t rejoice on what you’re doing in the ministry... **Rather rejoice in what He’s done for us!**

2. At the Father’s Relationship with the Son (22) – Jesus declares that **HIS Appointed Blessing** was **Authority!** “*All things have been delivered to me by My Father*” (22a). – The apostle John also clarifies this, adding the MOTIVE for such delegation: **(John 3:35)** “*The Father LOVES the Son and has given all things into His hand.*”

- Another **Appointed Blessing** is found in His Intimate Relationship with the Father, “*no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son...*” (cf. John 10:30)
- And a Third **Appointed Blessing** is found as Jesus spoke of **HOW** God allows US to have some part in their special relationship “*...and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*” – In **(John 17:21)** Jesus Prayed to His Father... “*that they [believers] all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*” **(John 17:21)**

D. Recognized Blessings (23-24) – **READ:** Jesus’ privately makes His disciples aware of yet another **Appointed Blessing!** “*Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see.*”

- **These Ambassadors** were privileged because *they saw and heard things!* – *They beheld Jesus, watched Him with their eyes, they Heard Him with their ears* (cf. 1 John 1:1) – They got to witness the fulfillment of so many prophecies firsthand! (Heb 1:1-3; John 1:1,14; Phil 2:5-11)
- **The Ancient Prophets & Kings** had their own privileges in their days, **but they all would have loved to see Jesus do the things He did!** – Hebrews tells us that many of the Old Testament Saints died, holding onto those promises! (Heb 11:39)

P/A – We too, must recognize that **Additional Blessings** are near to those who love Him and WAIT for His appearing (2 Tim 4:8; Heb 9:27) – In **(Luke 21:28)** Jesus said... “*Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*”

CLOSING THOUGHTS: These **APPOINTMENT REMINDERS** are important for us to consider because our current time has its own challenges and privileges. – So, We do the work because **He has CALLED US** – We do the work because **His Harvest is truly great**. – We do the work because **the laborers are few**. – We do the work because our **Lord’s return is eminent!**

- God has **Appointed Us** to exist in this time, so that we can warn others!