

“The Laborers of the Son of Man” Luke 10:1-24

Please Stand and Open Your Bibles to Luke 10:1-12

Today we are going to see another account that is unique to Luke that concerns another group of disciples that get called out. As we will see they are given the same instructions as the twelve when they were sent off. But I believe Luke is tying together the thought of the last verse we saw last week...

Luke 9:62

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

The idea of plowing and sowing seed has always been the idea of spreading the gospel. For them at this time it was that the Messiah had come. And for us it is the Messiah has come. First let us set up the context...

Luke 10:1

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

Your version may say 72 but don't let that throw you. The number is not the point but the fact that Jesus has a group of unnamed people that are willing to do the work. It is very interesting that we have no idea who these people are. I imagine that they were some of the 120 people in the upper room praying before the day of Pentecost. We know that Luke most likely got this from them when he was interviewing for this Gospel. This is happening at a later time than the other sending and we know where it is the Jesus is about to go...

Luke 9:51-52

Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face.

Luke is now filling in those details. Jesus is giving everyone another chance to receive Him on His way to the cross. Did you know that God is not comfortable with people going to hell? This is why He instructs them...

Luke 10:2

Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Are you praying for a harvest? Jesus wants you to. He also wants you to be involved. We all have a part to play.

1 Corinthians 3:5-8

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

In the parable of the Sower, who is the Sower? You! But that does not mean that we don't all have a role to play. Some plant, some water, some harvest. And some support. On a farm if everyone just did one thing nothing would grow. A healthy harvest requires everyone to do their job. He is sending them out and He is sending you.

The Seventy's Instructions

Luke 10:3-12

This is very similar to the sending of the twelve. They were to proclaim that the Kingdom has come. Remember, wherever the King is, is the Kingdom. It is not really any different for us.

They proclaimed the King is there and we proclaim the King has come and is coming back. These principles apply to us. First, we are to understand the world we are entering in to...

Luke 10:3

Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

Matthew includes this...

Matthew 10:16

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

We are to use discernment in our ministry. It is a lost world out there and not everyone wants or is willing to receive the message. Do you know there is a right way and a wrong way to share the gospel. I have seen some really dumb ways people share the gospel. Understand your audience and use wisdom in your approach.

Luke 10:7

...for the laborer is worthy of his wages.

Where God guides, He provides. Also be thankful we can help support those out in the field. A person doing the work

deserves to be supported by the work. Many people don't understand this and because they have been poisoned by so-called Christian TV, they think all Christians are out to fleece people. Or they think a minister should live in poverty. This is not true. If we compensate people in the world for doing a good job, why would we not for those doing the labor.

And again, we are not responsible for how the message is received, just to proclaim it.

Luke 10:10-11

“But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, ‘The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.’”

Hey, if they won't receive grace, give them Moses! I have no problem letting people know what the outcome is if they reject the gospel. Oh, people like to share the love of Christ, but what about the judgement of God? The two go hand in hand. People who reject the gospel have put their fate into their own hands!

Jesus Pronounces Woes to the towns that reject Him

Luke 10:12-16

Jesus is telling them to not be surprised that they will be rejected. But what he says is almost unthinkable. More tolerable than Sodom on the Day of Judgement? What? Then He mentions Chorazin and Bethsaida. Both these cities are where Jesus did many miracles and teachings at but obviously, they still rejected Him. Trye and Sidon were notoriously wicked cities. They were the seaport towns of the day, and Jesus is using them to say hey if He showed up at the redlight district in San Fransico or the gaslight district of San Diego they would have all repented and received Him. Then He brings up Capernaum. This was the town of Peter! And even they would not receive Him. Just remember the onus is on God, not you...

Luke 10:16

“He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

We are just the messengers. Don't worry about the response.
Sow, Water, Reap, Repeat!

The Seventy Return

Luke 10:17-20

It's very interesting what they were excited about. Not, “Look how many people are now following you!” or “We told every

person we saw along the way and did not miss one of them”
No, it was, “Look at the authority we had!”. Jesus is like, that’s nothing I saw Satan’s fall. Don’t ever try to one up Jesus, it will never work. Trust me He has one better every time. Now, he doesn’t deny what had happened with them and reminds them and us that whenever and wherever Jesus sends us nothing will get in our way. Do you know as a born-again believer you have authority over the enemy? You can and should rebuke the enemy in Jesus name any time they try to harass you. Remember this, “Rebuke first and ask questions later!”. You have no reason to fear. Remember...

1 John 4:4

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

I always wonder when people tell me about this demon or that demon in their house, that they want us to come anoint it with oil and pray, do they really understand who they are in Christ? I will gladly do it every time and bring the elders, but every true believer has the same power. Why? Because it is God not you! And that is why Jesus says this to them...

Luke 10:20

“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

What is it that should bring joy to our hearts? The fact that He has saved us and reserved a spot in heaven for us. What is it that makes you happy? Is it your Career? Your Family? Maybe it's your ministry? Is it your Facebook or X likes? What is it that you are seeking to make your heart full of joy? If it is anything else than your relationship with Jesus Christ, it will leave you wanting.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

You have heard the saying “Only one life, twill soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last.” And nothing could be closer to the truth. If you are only excited by all the signs and wonders, then you have missed the whole point. People are more important than authority. (Remind them that these 70 are anonymous) And because even Jesus is excited about this truth, He breaks out in praise to the Father...

Luke 10:21

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.”

Jesus was so happy that these simple people received the message. Do you know that God is rejoicing over you?

Zephaniah 3:17

“The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

Jesus willingly went to the cross thinking of you!

Hebrews 12:2

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

It was God’s great joy to save you, and He wants you to share in that joy for all eternity!

Luke 10:22

“All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

We totally agree that the bible teaches God's sovereignty over His ability to choose those that will be saved. But the Calvinist believes in what is known as “Limited Atonement” and “Irresistible Grace”. This is one of their proof texts to say that God only saved those He chose and therefore we have no choice in the matter. But what we find in scripture is that He does choose us but we all must choose Him too. How do I know this? Because this was not the only time, He said this...

Matthew 11:27-30

All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

You can see it is clearly both. The Bible teaches the Jesus died for the sins of everyone and the Father has sent the Holy Spirit

to convict the world of sin and draws people to Christ. The person must then receive Christ as their Savior to be saved thereby fulfilling the statement by Jesus. Don't put your trust in systems, put your trust in the Bible. What if we can't figure it out? God did not command you to figure it out but to believe it.

Finally...

Luke 10:23-24

Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; 24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."

The message of the Old Testament was Jesus. It told in detail of the first and second coming of the Messiah. All the writers could do was look forward, but they were there to witness it! I used to think that it would be exciting be part of the early church. To be able to witness the miracles of Jesus, His death and resurrection, the Holy Spirit falling on the church with all the signs and wonders. That was until I realized the time we are living in. Every week we share updates on the times we are living in, and it is biblical times! Israel regathered in the land is

something we take for granted. On top of the downward spiral of the culture and the rise of technologies that make revelation 13 possible we are seeing the culmination of history right before our eyes!

So, what do we do? We plow, we sow, we water, we harvest until He comes. Let's remember...

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Why has the Lord not come back yet? Because He is waiting for one more. Maybe He is waiting for you?