



Luke 10:1-12, 16-20

July 3, 2022

¹After 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. ²He 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. ³Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ ⁶If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹‘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.’ ¹²I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

1. Why do think Jesus sent the Seventy-Two out in pairs? What can we learn from this in our own mission efforts at home and overseas?
 - It's nice to have some support, like the buddy system. At our last Easter canvass, we sent everyone out in groups. Everybody had a good time. Then there were some extras that asked one guy to do by himself and he did not have a good time. Strength and protection in numbers, while still making efficient use of the people.
2. A number of years ago in our synod, there were actually more pastoral graduates than assignments available. Was Jesus statement, "the workers are few" wrong during that time?
 - Of courses Jesus wasn't wrong.
 - For just a short time the pendulum swung that direction and has quickly swung back the other way.
 - Also, the workers were still few compared to the harvest field of the world. It's not like we had saturated every mission field on earth. It just meant there were no vacancies around in our synod.
3. What do you think are the biggest influences or obstacles that hinder a young person from considering ministry? What can we do to encourage our young people in this direction?
 - There are so many things competing for their interests. Youth and high school sports has everyone dreaming of playing college and professional sports.
 - The jobs that your parents or sibling have can be big influencers into what you're interested in.
 - Other jobs might have more allure for money or prestige.
 - Ministry is hard. People's trust in clergy has decreased.
4. Why did Jesus tell them to "shake the dust off" when they weren't welcomed?
 - Shaking the dust off was a warning to them.

- They had shared the message and it was rejected. Nothing more could be done. Their responsibility was fulfilled. They could walk away with a clear conscience.
- Even the dust of those cities would dirty the beautiful feet of those who bring good news.
- Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet in Pisidian Antioch and then went to Iconium.

5. Sodom was the city God destroyed because of its wickedness and perversion. Why would it be more bearable for Sodom on Judgement Day than for the people in the towns to which they were going?

- Sodom was city of pagans. Not even five righteous could be found there. Yet, even for all their wickedness and immorality, they had the advantage of at least being mostly ignorant. On the other hand, Chorazin and Bethsaida got to see the messengers of the gospel sent out by Jesus and the signs that accompanied them, and still they rejected. It will be worse for those who have seen and heard the gospel and then rejected than for those who are just naturally wicked.

6. The NIV translates Jesus' words, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." What fall was this referring to? When did it take place?

- This verse might easily bring to your mind Satan being cast out of heaven in the beginning after his rebellion, when God locked the evil angels in gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment.
- However, the tense of the verb "saw" is actually an imperfect, meaning ongoing action. Jesus was watching Satan falling as they were doing their ministry and casting out demons. Satan falls as the gospel is proclaimed. Revelation pictures this as the great dragon being hurled down as the saints triumphed over him by

the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony.
Revelation 12.

7. Agree or disagree: True believers are able to trample on snakes and scorpions without being harmed.
 - The snake-handlers in the Appalachian Mountains sure think so. They make this a main part of their religious practice as well as speaking in tongues.
 - The seventy-two and the apostles did have these miraculous powers to accompany their testimony.
 - Mark 16:18 also indicates these signs.
 - However it appears that some of these great outward manifestations like tongues speaking passed away after the message had been confirmed.

8. For what reasons did Jesus redirect the disciples, “Do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” ?
 - The disciples seemed to like the publicity of casting out demons. The outward power was fun. The outward success was exciting.
 - Jesus needed to remind them that their first reason to rejoice is that they have salvation and that they can share it with others. Jesus was warning them not to get caught up in attention and power seeking.