

THE SEVENTY DISCIPLES SENT OUT

BIBLE TEXT : Luke 10 :1-24

LESSON 117 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The harvest truly **Is** great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Luke 10:1-24 (KJV)

¹ After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

² Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

³ Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

⁴ Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

⁵ And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace *be* to this house.

⁶ And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

⁷ And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

⁸ And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

⁹ And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

¹⁰ But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

¹¹ Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Commission of the Seventy Disciples

1 The 70 disciples were appointed and sent two and two into the cities and the places to work miracles and preach, Luke 10:1

2 The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few, Luke 10:2;

Matthew 9:37 (KJV)

³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

John 4:35-38 (KJV)

³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

³⁶ And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

³⁷ And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

³⁸ I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

3 Jesus warned His messengers of the dangers of their mission, Luke 10:3;

Matthew 10:16-23 (KJV)

¹⁶ Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

¹⁷ But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

¹⁸ And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

²¹ And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against *their* parents, and cause them to be put to death.

²² And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

²³ But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Ezekiel 2:3-7 (KJV)

³ And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, *even* unto this very day.

⁴ For *they are* impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

⁵ And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they *are* a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

⁶ And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns *be* with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they *be* a rebellious house.

⁷ And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they *are* most rebellious.

4 They were to carry no provisions for their journey, but Jesus promised they would find peace and sustenance as they labored, Luke 10:4-8;

1 Corinthians 9:13-14 (KJV)

¹³ Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of *the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

you.

¹² But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

¹³ Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

¹⁴ But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

¹⁵ And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

¹⁶ He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

¹⁷ And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

¹⁸ And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

¹⁹ Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

²⁰ Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

²¹ In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

²² All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the

¹⁴ Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Psalms 126:6 (KJV)

⁶ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

5 The people who refused to hear and heed were forewarned of impending judgment, Luke 10:9-12;

Acts 13:49-52 (KJV)

⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

⁵⁰ But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

⁵¹ But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 18:5-6 (KJV)

⁵ And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus was Christ*.

⁶ And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook *his raiment*, and said unto them, Your blood *be* upon your own heads; I *am* clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

II Three Cities Rebuked

1 Chorazin and Bethsaida had much light, Luke 10:13;

Matthew 11:21 (KJV)

²¹ Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

2 Tyre and Sidon, wicked cities of antiquity, will fare better at the judgment than Chorazin and Bethsaida, Luke 10:14

3 Proud Capernaum, Jesus' headquarters, was doomed to ignoble defeat, Luke 10:15;

Matthew 4:13 (KJV)

¹³ And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

III The Joy of the Seventy

1 The importance of their message was revealed, Luke 10:16;

John 13:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

John 14:21 (KJV)

²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

2 The 70 returned with joy: even the devils were subject unto them through the Lord's name, Luke 10:17;

Romans 16:20 (KJV)

²⁰ And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

James 5:13-15 (KJV)

¹³ Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

¹⁴ Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

1 John 3:8 (KJV)

⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

3 The disciples were cautioned to rejoice because their names were written in Heaven rather than because the spirits

Son, and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*.

²³ And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things that ye see:

²⁴ For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

were subject to them, Luke 10: 18-20;

Revelation 20:1-15 (KJV)

¹ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which *is the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

4 Jesus also rejoiced in spirit because these things had been accomplished, Luke 10:21, 22;

Philippians 2:9-11 (KJV)

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

¹¹And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5 Blessed were those who saw in Him the Messiah, Luke 10:23, 24

NOTES:

Other Seventy

"The Lord appointed other seventy also." One might think, on reading the words "other seventy," that a similar group had been sent out previously. This is not true, however. Saint Luke evidently had in mind the twelve Apostles who had been commissioned and sent out prior to this time (Matthew 10:1-23; Luke 9:1-6).

Probably Jesus would have sent others had He found those who were willing to go. The Bible records, "For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). In Luke 9:56-62, we read about several who were called, possibly in anticipation of this very group's being commissioned to go forth with the Gospel. The Scripture does not say whether they followed Jesus or not, but it does say they had excuses to offer. We know that those who are making excuses today are getting nowhere along the highway of holiness.

Paul the Apostle writes of the Christians in his ministry. In the letter to the Hebrews he wrote, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat." Jesus must have found the same situation among His followers. He gave the multitude strong meat; and, on one occasion found, when He had finished talking, that only the twelve Apostles remained with Him. "Will ye also go away?" He asked "Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (John 6:67-69).

Need for Laborers

No, Jesus had not sent a previous 70. His great compassionate heart must have longed to do so. He realized the need for more laborers, because He commanded these to pray as they labored. There is a secular song that says, "Whistle while you work," but Jesus admonished His disciples to pray while they worked. "Pray without ceasing," is what Paul wrote to the Thessalonians. He was only reiterating what Jesus had told the people, faint" (Luke 18:1). These laborers were to pray for more laborers. The Lord knew if He could win men's hearts, He could gather the world-wide harvest satisfactorily.

Surely there is no need or excuse to stand "all the day idle." The Master of the vineyard is continually calling those who will work for Him. What are the wages? — infinitely more than any other employer can pay. "Whatsoever is right I will give you." "And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" (John 4:36). You care not for that kind of wages? There is only one alternative: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

The 70 disciples were among the first Christian missionaries. They were to go "into every city and place, whither he himself would come." In reading this verse of Scripture, we can learn of Jesus' plan for enlightening the world. As the disciples journeyed they declared the Gospel **of the Kingdom**. **This** aroused the people to a state of expectancy; and when

Jesus came to them, the common people, at least, heard Him gladly. Multitudes, people in all walks of life, often thronged Him in the places He visited.

Plan of Redemption

Jesus' plan is still the same today. Before Jesus can enter the heart of a man, somebody must tell that man the Story. Before He can enter a city or place, a messenger of the Cross must precede Him. Someone may say, "Read the Bible, follow its instructions, and you will be saved." This is true, because the Bible is God's message to men; it is the revelation of Himself to the world. It is, then, a messenger in itself. Even so, a man's being saved by reading the Word alone is the exception rather than the rule. Do we find many being redeemed in this manner even in enlightened America? How much less is this true in heathen darkness, where the only religion that is known is that of superstition and devil worship? "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14). In some instances a few words will suffice, in other cases years of prayerful labor are required to bring a soul to Christ. One thing is sure: if we are faithful in telling the Redemption Story to men, Jesus will come also.

**"Down through the ages 'twas e'er the same,
Always a faithful band
Told the sweet story of Jesus' love,
Told of Redemption's plan."**

Worthy Workmen

The disciples were not to go out heavily laden; they were not to carry purse, scrip, nor shoes. They were to trust God for their maintenance. The citizens of the country who were worthy (Matthew 10:11) would receive them until they were ready to depart again. These disciples were messengers of grace, laborers in the Lord's harvest; therefore their provisions and necessities of life were provided. Jesus said, "The labourer is worthy of his hire." These are true laborers and not hirelings. We find in the Bible instances of God's disdain for the hireling — the one who uses the Gospel to gain the things of this world (John 10:12, 13; Ezekiel 34:1-10).

The 70 were warned that their reception would not always be favorable. He sent them out as sheep among wolves. They were to be meek, harmless, and defenseless in themselves. They were to be wise and sincere, but not to expose themselves to needless dangers. "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). When persecution arose, they were to flee to another city. This was not a cowardly flight, but a prudent withdrawal because of rejection, that the Gospel might be heralded to wider areas. Jesus told them that even so they would not have gone "over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come" (Matthew 10:23).

The Seventy Return

It was with triumphant joy that the 70 returned, saying, "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name " It is the natural tendency for man to glory in power, whether that power is inherent or conferred. The Apostles and disciples sometimes showed a disposition to glory in their successes. This arose from pride and would hinder, if not destroy, the real work that God had committed to them. Jesus was always quick to show them the error and solemnly warn them of the danger: "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."

We must receive the same admonition today if we expect to do anything for God.

There is no room for pride in God's plan for man. There is in pride the act of taking from God His glory. God does all the acts of good and power; He uses man only as His instrument. As sure as a Christian begins to take to himself the glory of his feats and triumphs, God will lay him level with the dust. "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble" (James 4:6). Pride must be cast adrift before God can visit us with favor, for no grace comes to the proud. Humility is the grace that attracts more grace.

The Place of Rejoicing

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." We can see, then, a place for rejoicing in the Gospel. Jesus did not wish to deter the disciples from rejoicing; He wanted only to guide it into the right channels. Their rejoicing was to be Heaven-born and not of a carnal nature: "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8).

God has laid no embargo upon rejoicing. He puts no restraint upon happiness so long as it springs from heavenly fountains. "Rejoice evermore," the Bible tells us. "Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." This is the greatest thing that can happen to mortal man; therefore let us give God the glory and honor due His name. "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40)

QUESTIONS

- 1 Had any persons other than the 70 disciples been sent out?
- 2 How many laborers were there for the harvest?
- 3 Were the disciples sure of a welcome?
- 4 What provisions were they to take?
- 5 Did Jesus give them a message to preach? What was it?
- 6 Did the Lord help the disciples in their work?
- 7 Were the disciples rejoicing when they returned? What about?
- 8 What did Jesus tell them to rejoice about?