

Message Notes 08/08/10

"The Sending of the Seventy-Two"
PRINCIPLES OF AN EFFECTIVE EVANGELIST/MISSIONARY
Luke 10:1-20

This is now the SECOND TIME Jesus is sending out His disciples (cf. Luke 9:1-6)!

The DIFFERENCE is WHO is going. The first time it was the TWELVE, now Jesus is sending out **"seventy-two others."**

This SENDING comes **"after"** the lesson on the COST of following Jesus; which is **encouraging**, because in spite of the high price/cost, there were **at least seventy-two who were still on board!**

RATHER than just an interesting narrative, we learn some **valuable PRINCIPLES** of an **EFFECTIVE EVANGELIST and/or MISSIONARY!**

So what is necessary to be effective in **making Christ known?**

I. I MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE COMMISSION OF CHRIST! – (10:1)

Far too many believers accept **NO RESPONSIBILITY** to be **witnesses** for Christ! They mistakenly believe it is **someone else's job!**

(Lk 9:60) – Following Jesus means I am responsible to **"proclaim the kingdom of God!"**

(Lk 24:48) – **"You are witnesses of these things."**

(John 15:16a) – **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."**

(John 20:21) – **"...As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."**

(Acts 1:8) – **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

It is the **DESIGN OF GOD** that those who have **experienced** the grace, love and forgiveness of God be the ones who in turn **SHARE** that same message/experience with those they are in contact with!

(2 Cor 5:11-6:2)

BEFORE we move on, just a couple of observations on (v.1)

1. I am NOT intended to BE ALONE in this endeavor!

I am not **CALLED** alone (**"seventy-two"**), nor am I to **GO ALONE** (**"two by two"**)!

2. I am to GO WHERE JESUS IS GOING! – "...ahead of him...where he was about to go."

(John 5:19-20)

HOW DO I KNOW WHERE JESUS IS GOING?

II. I MUST PRAY TO "THE LORD OF THE HARVEST!" – (10:2)

FIRST: WHY must I pray?

(v.2a) – So I would have the Father’s heart, the Father’s view!

Like a FARMER looking out over the fields, wondering how he will be able to harvest the fields before the approaching storm with so few workers, Jesus looks at the mass of humanity and declares, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few!”*

SECOND: WHAT must I pray?

(v.2b) *“...Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

Darrell Bock – *“...mission occurs in the context of prayer and God’s sovereignty. [...] In an age when marketing and public relations strategies often determine how the gospel is shared, Luke provides a needed reminder of God’s lordship over the process of conversion.”*

(John 4:35) – *“...open your eyes and look at the fields”*

WHO KNOWS? Perhaps if I pray long enough, my own heart would be changed/stirred to do more than just talk TO God!

III. I MUST GO! – (10:3-6)

There comes a time when you’ve THOUGHT about it and PRAYED about it long enough! There comes a time when Jesus says, *“Go! I am sending you...”*

Again, from the text we note the following:

1. I am to GO in spite of DANGER! – “...I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

The PICTURE Jesus employs is dramatic! The vulnerability of *sheep* is in stark contrast to the viciousness of *wolves*!

NOTE, this is not a remote possibility, but rather a CERTAINTY – *“I am sending you...among wolves!”*

(2 Tim 3:12) (Phil 3:10-11)

For some in the 1st & 2nd Century, this was literal (for those believers who ended up as Martyrs in the Coliseums of the Roman Empire)

Missions/evangelism never has, nor will it ever be SAFE!

2. I am to GO trusting in GOD’S PROVISION – “...Do not take a purse or bag or sandals”

(v.7) gives the reason why: *“...for the worker deserves his wages.”*

It is more than some cliché; God will provide!

(Phil 4:19) – *“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*

As we read earlier from **(2 Cor 6:1)**, we are *“God’s fellow workers!”*

There are MANY in this room who can attest to the provision of God in doing His work!

3. I am to GO with a sense of URGENCY – “...and do not greet anyone on the road.”

My friends, God is NOT sending us to talk about the weather!

While we certainly should not be discourteous, neither should we allow the goings-on of life to keep us from sharing the Author of life!

4. I am to GO with the BLESSING OF GOD! – (v.5)

Think about this carefully. **FIRST and FOREMOST**, I am there to bring the **peace of God!**

You're not there to **SAVE** them (so you can notch your Bible, or write an impressive report to your supporters), but you are there to **bring the peace of God!**

You're talking to a **REAL PERSON** with a life that is every bit as complex and complicated as yours! They share all your needs, frustrations, heartaches, hopes, and dreams!

YOU ARE THERE TO REPRESENT GOD—to testify that God loves them and wants them to be in relationship with Him—to bring the peace that passes all understanding!

(Rom 5:1)

5. I am to GO to the RECEPTIVE – (v.6)

(Matt 7:6) – “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs.”

Jesus even tells us why: **“...If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.”**

In our evangelism/missionary endeavors, there is the place for **wisdom** and the clear **leading of the Spirit!**

CONCLUSION

WHAT AM I ASKING THIS MORNING?

- I want you to **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY** for being a **witness of Jesus Christ!**
- I want you to **PRAY** to the **Lord of the Harvest** to send forth workers to the fields!
- I want you to **GO** in spite of the danger, to **GO** trusting in God's provision, to **GO** with a sense of urgency, to **GO** with the blessing of God, and to **GO** where you are effective!