

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 10:00 AM

Message Series: Seeking the Lost – Jesus’ Ministry in Galilee

Week 9– Jesus Sends Out Seventy-Two

Scriptures: Luke 10:1-24

Brief Preview: Luke, a gentile physician, builds his gospel narrative around a historical and chronological presentation of Jesus’ ministry in Galilee, Judea, and Samaria. Luke is the longest and most comprehensive of the four Gospels, presenting Jesus Christ as the God-Man, the Son of Man who came to seek and save sinful men. Growing belief and growing opposition develop side by side. Those who believe His claims are challenged to count the cost of discipleship; those who oppose Him will only be satisfied once the Son of Man hangs lifeless on a cross. But the Resurrection ensures that His ministry of seeking and saving the lost will continue in the person of His disciples and their friends (the ordinary people who followed Jesus from the crowd) once they have been equipped with His power.

Context: Jesus' gathering of a band of followers included several disciples, meaning "learners." They came from different vocations of life: fishermen, tax collectors, political zealots, and ordinary folks. These disciples' had one hundred and twenty friends, and seventy-two were part of that group, and they accompanied the apostles the whole time (Acts 1:15, 21). In this scenario, Jesus appointed seventy-two and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go (Luke 10:1). They were not welcome in the synagogues and various other towns in Samaria. Jesus had instructed them to share the peace with the house that welcomed them and proclaimed God's kingdom (Luke 10:5-7). To those towns that welcome them, he told them to eat what is offered, heal the sick and tell them what to say, 'The kingdom of has come neat to you' (Luke 10:8-9). However, to those towns that didn't welcome them, he had instructed them what to say (10:11-12). Furthermore, he said, "Whoever listens to you listens to me, whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me" (Luke 10:16). The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:18). He had given authority to them to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy, and nothing harmed them. Jesus asked them not to rejoice that spirit submitted them but to rejoice that their names are written in heaven. At that time, Jesus being full of joy through the Holy Spirit, praised the Father because he had revealed the little children of God, such as those seventy-two accompanies of his disciples, but hidden those things from the wise and learned. All those to whom Jesus chooses to reveal the Father and himself will only know who the Father and the Son are. Turning toward his disciples privately said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see (v. 23)." This is because they were seeing and hearing the things many prophets and kings longed to see and hear but could not do these things (v.24). Indeed, Christ came to seek and save what is lost.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Failure is not an option

Illus.: Thomas Edison and the Story of His Invention
 - B. The diagnosis and prognosis of sin problems, Jesus – the divine physician, his treatment and role played by the followers He chose

- II. The Readiness and Resolution of Jesus vs. the Rudeness of the Samaritans
 - A. Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem
 - i. Time has come to be taken up to heaven (9:51a)
 - ii. He was entirely determined to go to Jerusalem (9:51b)
 - B. The Rudeness of Samaritans in a village
 - i. How civil was Jesus: he sent messengers on ahead (9:52)
 - ii. How uncivil they were to him (9:53)
 - iii. The resentment of James and John (9:54), the Lord’s rebuke, and moving on to the next village (v.55-56)

- III. The Cost of Discipleship and Sending Out of the Seventy-Two
 - .A. The Cost of Discipleship
 - i. The First, Second, and the Third man (Luke 9:57-62)
 - ii. Jesus’ ministry is Big! **Illus.:** 10/40 Window
 - iii. The Harvest is plenty, but the workers are few... (Luke 10:2-3)

- B. The Appointment and the Sending Forth of the Seventy-Two Disciples Two By Two
 - i. Their number – Christ had so many followers (Acts 1:15, 21)
 - ii. Their work and business (10:1)
 - a. They must heal the sick (10:9)
 - b. They must announce the approach of the kingdom (10:9)
 - iii. The instructions that were given to them:
 - a. They must set out with prayers (v. 2)
 - b. They must set out with expectations and troubles and persecutions (v. 3)
- C. Other Instructions (v. 4)
 - i. Relationship culture is different
 - ii. They were to go as a serious business person
- D. They must show goodwill (Luke 10:5-6)
- E. They must receive the kindness of those who were to receive them (v. 7-8)
- F. They must denounce judgments of God against those who should reject them and their message (v. 10)

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Jesus, the divine physician, seeks out the sins from wherever it hides
 - i. **Illus.** the Atheist father, his little girl, and the people from the four-corner area
 - ii. Jesus demonstrates his power and authority over sin's ultimate effects (Luke 10:18-20)
 - iii. Jesus came to give life to sinners (Luke 10:16)
- B. Some Practical Implications
 - i. God would like to send you 'as sheep among the wolves...' He goes with us...
 - ii. With God, we must be ready to endure hardship to bring the gospel to the lost.
 - iii. God in Christ has spared us from the deadly effect of sin so that we, like the Seventy-Two disciples, can use the new life we enjoy to let every unreached know that God's healing has come in Jesus.
 - iv. We can't afford to act like Pharisees – being aware of sin but not realizing its extreme toxicity.
 - v. Being aware of the seriousness of our sin problem and undervaluing the magnitude of the necessary treatment of Christ of sin is not right.

Questions and Answers (Refer to Luke 10:1-24, NIV for answers)

1. Why did Jesus 'woe' to the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida? _____: (v. 13)
 - A. The miracles were performed there, but they did not repent
 - B. If the miracles that were done in Chorazin and Bethsaida were performed in Tyre and Sidon, the people there would have been sitting in sackcloth and ashes (that means serious repentance). C. The people in there must be prideful and unrepenting in their hearts. D. The judgment will be severe for them. E. All of the above F. None of the above
2. Will the Capernaum be lifted to the heavens? (v. 15) A. Yes B. No
3. Jesus told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (v. 2). What was Jesus asking them to do? A. Ask to send out workers in the field B. Pray C. Both D. Only A E. None
4. True or False? A. Whoever listens to the disciple of Christ listens to Jesus. T F B. Whoever rejects the disciple of Christ rejects Jesus. T F C. Jesus told the seventy-two not to rejoice that the spirits submit to them but rejoice that their names are written in heaven. T F D. Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see," because they were seeing the things many prophets and kings wanted to see but did not see T F
5. **What's the take-home lesson today?** A. I want to be aware of sin and its extreme toxicity; help me, Jesus. B. God in Christ has spared me from the deadly effect of sin; like the seventy-two disciples of Christ, I would like to pray that God uses me to set out so that I may receive the opportunity to share the Good News to others and proclaim them that God's healing has come in Jesus; I would like to see lost found and restored. C. I am experiencing the miraculous cure through Jesus; I want to share the life-giving good news of Christ with others still suffering inside and outside the Church. D. This may mean participating in church activities and ministries for me, and seeking and sharing the compassion of Christ with my family, friends, and neighbors. And/Or E. _____(Fill in the blank)