



Jesus Sends Out the 72

Read Luke 10:1-12

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town." Luke 10:1-12 ESV

v. 1-12

Jesus sends out the 72 - they are new Christ followers and He sends them out with no provisions.

Ask, How does Jesus describe them on this mission? (As lambs among the wolves.)

Ask, Does it seem fair to send out new Christ-followers on such an important mission? (Remember the mission is for them to share that the Kingdom of God is near and heal the sick and this is basically the same instructions Jesus gave the 12 and they had spent significant time with Jesus up to this point.)

Ask, What are some common excuses people use for not following Christ as a disciple?

Jesus sends them out with basically nothing and ask the 72 to rely on the generosity of others.

Why would Jesus send them out this way?

And notice, they do as Jesus tells them to do. How often are we hesitant to follow Christ when we don't see all the provisions in place.

Let's read v. 13-24

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me." The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal

him." Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

v. 13-16

Pretty harsh words for those who have heard the truth, seen the miracles of Jesus and did nothing with it. He mentions three cities that are primarily those who have claimed God but have not received the truth of Jesus. Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum. They are all in the Judean area and where Jesus performed the bulk of His miracles.

Jesus tells them that His influence there bore no fruit. They were faithless in response to the truth.

He mentions Tyre and Sidon, two cities north of there and primarily made up of gentiles and they responded well to the truth.

Jesus tells them that "Those who hear you hears Me, the one who rejects you rejects Me and the one who rejects Me rejects the Father." - They are now ambassadors which means they represent the King and His message, not their own message. Very important for us to remember that we are ambassadors of the King and we share His message and not our own.

v. 17-20

They return with joy after leaving ill equipped but obedient.

They recognize that even demons are subject to them in Jesus name, but Jesus reminds them "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven and I have you taken care of. But don't rejoice in the signs but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Word of caution here - *We can easily get caught up in the things we do for Christ rather than the beauty and truth realizing that Jesus is our only salvation.*

They have authority over the power of evil but not of the power of the holy. (***Celebrate the One who sent you on mission.***)

Jesus tells the 72 to check themselves before they wreck themselves

v. 21-24

- Jesus thanks the Father for His gracious plan
- Jesus turns to the 12 and tells them they are blessed because they are seeing the fulfillment of prophecy - He refers to them as little children
- Jesus curses those who had all access but chose not to believe
- Jesus refers to the blessed of the 12 and thanks the Father for His plan
- The grace is that God reserved it for the children and the ill equipped

So What?

Don't wait to be equipped - rest in God's grace and mercy

Don't waste your blessing - share Christ now

Don't sit on the throne - be an ambassador and represent the King (don't try to do God's job)

Don't forget your salvation - don't get lost in your abilities

Don't forget to thank the Father - live a thankful life.

Encourage your group to pray for one another this week.