Mission of the Seventy

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Text:

Luke 10:1-24, 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. 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 sent forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. 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. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, 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 you. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city. 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. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell. He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me. And the seventy returned again
with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. 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. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. 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. 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 Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: 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.

Commentary:

I. Jesus appointed 70 others (other than the apostles) to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

   A. They were sent out in pairs, two by two.

      1. All who have worked in mission fields alone know how wonderful it would have been to have a co-worker to offer help and encouragement.

      2. On all his missionary journeys Paul had other team members with him.
3. This was excellent training for the 70 for work they would perform after the crucifixion.

B. They were to visit every city and place Jesus planned later to also go.

1. The 70 were dispatched to places in the Trans-Jordan which was populated by a large number of Gentiles.

2. Jesus would soon also visit all these places.

3. The 70 served as an extension of the ministry of Jesus.

Luke 10:2, 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.

I. Jesus advised the 70:

A. The harvest indeed is plenteous.

B. Laborers are few.

C. Pray God (the Lord of the harvest) to send adequate laborers into his fields to do the work.

D. There have never been enough workers in the world to maximally do God’s work on earth.

I. Jesus sent the 70 on their way telling them:

A. I send you forth as lambs among wolves…

1. as kind, harmless saints

2. among wicked people intent on the destruction of the 70 (lambs).

B. Carry no…

1. purse, wallet. Don’t take extra money. Rely on God to provide your needs.

2. shoes. Don’t take extra shoes.

3. Salute no man on the way; that is, don’t waste time with longwinded salutations as was customary in that area and time.

4. These instructions were very similar to those given the twelve apostles when they were sent on their mission.

5. The 70 were to travel lightly carrying no extraneous baggage.

Luke 10:5,6, And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.
I. When these missionaries entered a house they were to:

A. Greet the people of the house in a peaceful manner asking God’s blessings to rest upon it.

B. If the man of the house were a peaceful man (son of peace) peaceful blessings would abide on him.

C. If the people of the house did not extend a hospitable welcome to the workers, they were to extend no peaceful blessing. The peaceful blessing was to be retracted.

D. Expressions of good will bless the receiver of the blessing. If the expressions of good will are rejected they still bless the peaceful giver.

Luke 10:7,8, 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. And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

I. If the people of the house, city welcomed the workers they…

A. were to remain, abide in that house.

B. were to eat and drink graciously such things as they offered. They were not to insist on kosher food to the hosts’ inconvenience.

C. receive support. A laborer is worthy of his hire, in this case room and board.
D. were not to move from house to house using valuable
time in moving that could be used in preaching.

II. Scriptures relating to hospitality:

A. I Corinthians 9:7, Who goeth a warfare any time at
his own charges? Who planteth a vineyard, and
eateth not of the fruit thereof? Or who feedeth a
flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

B. I Timothy 4:8, For bodily exercise profiteth little:
but godliness is profitable unto all things, having
promise of the life that now is, and of that which is
to come.

C. I Corinthians 10:27, If any of them that believe not
bid you to a feast, and ye be disposed to go;
whatsoever is set before you, eat, asking no question
for conscience sake.

D. Matthew 15:10-20, And he called the multitude, and
said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that
which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that
which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.
Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest
thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they
heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every
plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted,
shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind
leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind,
both shall fall into the ditch. Then answered Peter
and said unto him, Declare unto us this parable.
And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without
understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that
whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the
belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These things are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Luke 10:9, And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.
I. Jesus commanded the 70:

A. Heal the sick.

B. Preach the gospel of the kingdom.

1. The kingdom was near in that the king was close by and the church kingdom was soon to be established on the next Pentecost.

Luke 10:10,11, But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, 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 you.

I. If a city did not receive, welcome the 70 they were to publicly “knock the dust off their feet.”

A. Adam Clarke explained: The Jews considered themselves defiled by the dust of a heathen country, a polluted land, as compared with the land of Israel, a holy land. To shake the dust of any city, place from the feet or clothes was an emblematic renunciation of all
future contact with them and placed them on a par with heathen cities.

B. Scriptures:

1. **Amos 7:17**, Therefore thus saith the Lord; thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth out of his land.

2. **Amos 9:7**, Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? Saith the Lord. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? And the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?

3. **Acts 13:51**, But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

II. They were to tell the rejecting people what they had missed.

A. The kingdom had come nigh and they had passed it by.

B. Whether people accept or reject the gospel, Christians are to proclaim the unchanging will of God “in season and out of season.”

C. The message cannot be changed to accommodate the hearers.

**Luke 10:12**, But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.
I. It will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for wicked depraved Sodom (Genesis 19:1-26) than for the city that rejects the preaching of the kingdom of God.

A. Will there be degrees of punishment for the lost in hell?

B. The depth of sin into which Sodom sank was not as bad as Israel’s rejection of the king and the kingdom of God.

Luke 10:13,14, 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. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.

I. It will be more tolerable, bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon, Gentile cities, then for Chorazin/Korasin and Bethsaida!

A. This is because of the fact that Tyre and Sidon, had Jesus’ miracles been performed there, would have repented in deepest grief (sackcloth and ashes) whereas Chorazin and Bethsaida witnessed Jesus’ miracles but did not repent.

Note: Job 2:8, And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. Jonah 3:6, For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

1. The New Testament records only one miracle Jesus performed in Bethsaida, and none he performed in Chorazin.
2. A blind man was healed in Bethsaida.
   a. Mark 8:22-26, And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into town, nor tell it to any in the town.
   b. Only a small fraction of Jesus’ miracles are recorded in the New Testament.

3. We are simply left to wonder about the other miracles.

4. Chorazin is mentioned only one other time in the New Testament.
   a. Matthew 11:21, 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.
5. Bethsaida is mentioned several times in the New Testament as the residence of Peter, Andrew, Philip.

B. Tyre and Sidon were considered to be among the most wicked cities of that time.

1. The Jews believed that the severest divine judgments should be visited on Tyre and Sidon.

C. When the gospel was preached in Tyre and Sidon the citizenry was receptive to it.

1. Acts 21:3-6, Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into Syria, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden. And finding disciples, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem. And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed. And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

2. Acts 27:3, And the next day we touched at Sidon. And Julius courteously entreated Paul, and gave him liberty to go unto his friends to refresh himself.

D. Why was not the gospel preached sooner to Tyre and Sidon?
Luke 10:15, and thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

I. Capernaum where Jesus performed many miracles thought it would be forever prosperous, exalted to heaven, but actually they would be destroyed, brought down to death, destruction, extinction, Hades. With the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 Capernaum was also left desolate.

A. Capernaum was the home of Jairus whose daughter was raised from the dead.

B. Capernaum was also the home of the nobleman whose son was healed of a fever.

C. It is certainly inferred that many other miracles were performed in Capernaum.

Luke 10:16, He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

I. Jesus assured the seventy (70) that those who heard or rejected them heard or rejected him because they were his emisaries, speaking his gospel, acting in his place.

II. Those who rejected Jesus rejected the one who sent him, God his Father in heaven!

Note: The sender and the sent were one! To honor one or reject one is to honor or reject the other. Acts 22:8, And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest.
The Return of the Seventy

Luke 10:17, 18, And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

I. The 70 returned to Jesus following completion of their mission.

A. joyfully . . .

B. because the demons were subject to them in the name of Christ.

II. Jesus replied that He had seen Satan fall as lightning from heaven.

A. The power of the devil was becoming weaker. His fall from the pinnacle of power (heaven) and prominence was as fast as lightning.

B. Jesus was responding to the victory over demons reported by the 70.

C. He was also looking forward to the judgment day when the devil would be totally and eternally defeated.

Luke 10:19, 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.
I. Jesus had given the 70:

A. power over serpents and scorpions (the wicked servants of the devil) and

B. over all the power of the enemy (the devil himself).

II. The 70 (and we) are to continue to do the work of the Lord with the assurance that “nothing would be able to hurt,” defeat them as they faithfully served the Lord.

A. Matthew 28:20, “Lo, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Luke 10:20, Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

I. Jesus told the 70 that:

A. their joy should come more from knowing that their names were written in heaven in the Lamb’s book of life:

B. than from the success they had had in being able to cast out evil spirits.
The Rejoicing of Christ

Luke 10:21, 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.

I. Jesus then rejoiced “in the Holy Spirit” (in harmony with the Holy Spirit) and prayed to God his Father.

   A. I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth . . .

   B. that you hid these things from the wise and understanding . . .

      1. God hid them from the wise because they refused to believe.

      2. Their hearts were hardened.

   C. and revealed them unto babes.

      1. Honest humble people heard and believed Jesus.

      2. These understood and accepted the gospel.

   D. This was the way God wanted it to be.

Luke 10:22, 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 Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.

I. Everything Jesus had was given him of his Father.
II. No one knew the Son except the Father.

III. No one really knew the Father except the Son.

IV. ... and those to whom the Son saw fit to reveal him.

**Note:** In a sentence in these words is contained the wondrous mystery of Christology, the knowledge of Jesus’ identity as the Christ and his association with the Father.

**Luke 10:23, 24**, And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see; 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.

I. Jesus turned to his disciples and privately said:

A. Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see.

B. Many prophets and kings of the past desired to see the things the disciples saw, but had no opportunity to see them.

C. They also longed to hear the things the disciples heard but had no opportunity to hear them.

D. No prophet nor king in Israel’s illustrious past had the opportunity to see and hear what these disciples, plain, ordinary men, saw and heard, the gospel of salvation through Christ.
Mission of the Seventy

Questions

1. Jesus appointed __________ others to _______________ the _______________ of the _______________.

2. They were sent out in _______________ by _______________. What are advantages and disadvantages of sending paired evangelists to preach in mission fields? __________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________ 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7. Why is this true? _____________________________________
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8. ____________, which was then ____________ to ____________, shall be thrust down to ____________.
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________ 

9. What afterward happened to this city? _____________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
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10. The _____________ returned with _____________, saying, _____________, even the _____________ are subject unto us through your _____________. Jesus said to the seventy, “I beheld _____________ as _____________ fall from _____________. “
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________ 

11. I give you _____________ to tread on _____________ and _____________, and over all the _____________ of the _____________: and nothing shall by any means _____________ you.
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________ 

12. Do not rejoice that the _____________ are subject to you; but rather rejoice because your _____________ are _____________ in _____________.
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_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________ 

13. Blessed are the _____________ which see the things you _____________. Many _________________ and _________________ desired to see those things you see and have not
seen them: and to _______________ those things which you hear, and have not _______________ them.

14. What mission has Jesus sent you to perform? ______________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________

15. What obstacles has the devil placed in your way to hinder you from accomplishing your mission? ________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________