

Bible Study

Date: 12 February 2010

Passage: Luke 10: 1 - 42.

Headings: 1. Seventy Disciples Sent Out 1 - 16. 2. A Good Report 17 - 24.
3. Who our Neighbours are 25 - 37. 4. The Better Part 38 - 42.

Exposition:

1. Seventy Disciples Sent Out 1 - 16.

V1. The Lord now chooses seventy of His disciples and sends them in pairs to go into every city and place where He planned to visit.

V2. In comparison to the number of people that He was sending them to reach with the Good News they were merely an handful. Jesus says to them that there is a great harvest of people ready to be gathered into the Kingdom but there are few labourers. However, He further tells them to pray to Him who is Lord of the Harvest to send out more labourers into the fields to gather them in.

V3. Bidding them to go their way He warns them that He is sending them out as lambs among wolves.

V4. As Jesus did with the twelve that He had previously sent He tells these disciples not to take any money with them or food bag, no spare sandals. They were not to be delayed in their mission by stopping to spend the time of day with anyone.

V5. Whenever they entered any one's house the first thing they were to say to them was "Peace to this house".

V6. If a person of peace lives in that house the blessing of peace that they had pronounced upon it will remain. If they are hostile then their blessing will be thrown back in their face.

V7 - 8. They were to remain in an house of peace and to eat and drink whatever was given to them and accept the hospitality shown because those who work are worthy of his wages. Again whatever city they enter and are received they were to accept anything that was set before.

V9. Wherever they go and are accepted they are to heal the sick and to proclaim that the Kingdom of God, the Day of Salvation has at hand.

V10 - 11. However, whatever city they enter and the people reject them they are to go into the streets and as good as say "as you have rejected our witness so as we shake the dust from our sandals so we wipe our hands of you.

V12 - 13. Jesus warns that the towns that reject Him will come off worse than the evil city of Sodom in the Day of Judgment. He names particularly Chorazin and Bethsaida which had already received the witness and confirmation of who He was by the many miracles He had done in them. If these same works had been done in the Gentile cities of Tyre and Sidon they would have soon repented and shown it by wearing sackcloth and sprinkling ashes over their heads.

V14. On the Judgment Day it will be more endurable for Tyre and Sidon than the places who were given the witness and rejected it.

V15. Capernaum was very privileged as the Lord Jesus Christ stayed there often and preach and did many miracles. In rejected the Christ they would go to hell.

V16. Turning to His disciples He told them that whoever accepts the message that they proclaim also accepts Him. But if anyone rejects them then they reject Him and also God who sent Him.

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2. A Good Report 17 - 24.

V17. The seventy disciples returned to Jesus full of joy declaring that even demons obeyed them as they cast them out in His Name.

V18. This was no news to the Lord Jesus Christ for He knew it would be so for He saw Satan and his angels cast out of heaven for He is the Eternal Son of God.

V19. It is Jesus who gave them the power and authority over the enemy and protection from any harm coming to them.

V20. However, he says do not rejoice that because demons are subject to you but rather rejoice over the more important thing that your names are written in heaven, in the Lambs Book of Life (Hebrews 12: 23).

V21. At that same time Jesus was filled with great joy and the Holy Spirit and gave thanks to God the Father and Lord of heaven and earth that He had hidden the truths of the Kingdom of God from those who considered themselves to be wise and intelligent and had revealed them to those who were childlike, unskilled, untaught. For thus it pleased God to do so (1 Corinthians 1: 27).

V22. Everything that belongs to God has been entrusted to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). No one truly knows Him but the Father and no one knows the Father except His Son.

V23. He turned to His disciples and privately told them that those who see the things that have seen are blessed.

V24. The many prophets and kings of the Old Testament longed to see and hear what the disciples were receiving and although God spoke to them and through them they had not fully understood or seen them fulfilled as the disciples of Jesus were now (hebrews 11: 13, 39).

3. Who our Neighbours are 25 - 37.

V25. An expert in the religious law came and asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Not because he wanted to know but was trying to catch Him out.

V26. Jesus not only asks the man what is written in the scriptures but also how he interpreted it.

V27. The Scribe, or lawyer, quoted the text from Leviticus 19:18 and Deuteronomy 6:5 "You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind." And, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

V28 - 29. Jesus told him that he had quoted correctly what the scripture said now in order to receive eternal life he was to live out the word of God. However, the man wanting to put himself right before the people asked Jesus who was his neighbour. The man knew perfectly well that the scriptures did not just mean the person living next door to you.

V30. Jesus then told the parable of the Good Samaritan. A man while making a journey to Jericho from Jerusalem was attacked by thieves who robbed him of all that he had even his clothes and left him for dead on the road.

V31. As it happened a priest came down the same road and seeing the man lying there and assuming that he was dead crossed over to the other side and passed by (Numbers 19:16).

V32. Also a Levite came that way and just took a look at the man and without any intention of giving help he too passed by on the other side.

V33. A Samaritan also journeyed down the same road and when he saw the man his heart went out him.

V34. He cleaned the man's wounds with wine and poured oil upon them and then bound them with bandages. He then placed the man upon his own donkey and took him to an inn where he could tend to the man more fully.

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V35. The following day he gave the innkeeper two denarii, silver coins to pay for housing and caring for the man with the promise that he would pay innkeeper whatever else it may cost him when he returned.

V36. Jesus then asked the Scribe who out of the three men he thought was the good neighbour.

V37. The Scribe could do no other than reply that it was the Samaritan who showed mercy and had compassion upon the wounded man. Jesus told him to go and do the same.

4. The Better Part 38 - 42.

V38. As Jesus and His disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem they entered the village of Bethany where a woman named Martha lived and she welcomed Him into her home.

V39. She had a sister named Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus listening to what He taught.

V40. Martha was very busy preparing to serve a meal and had got all hot and bothered about it and so she came to Jesus and asked Him if He had no thought for her doing all this work while her sister had left her to do it all alone. She asks him to tell Mary to come and help her.

V41 - 42. Jesus tells Martha that she worries and gets anxious about many things which distracts her mind from the spiritual things (Philippians 4: 6). Mary had chosen to listen and receive the Word of God, the spiritual things, which is far better, which will never be taken from her. It is to be noted that the things that Martha were seeing to needed to be done otherwise no one would ever had got anything to eat and their needs would not be met. The point is that she had put them before the more important thing of listening to the Words of Jesus Christ which would have edified and giving her strength and the calmness of spirit to do the things that were needful for everyday living.