

Luke 10:1-21 The Seventy

- I. Introduction
 - a. If you had unlimited resources and needed to get a message out to the whole world, how would you do it?
 - i. Buy advertising time on every television and radio station?
 - ii. Put a full-page article in every newspaper?
 - iii. Send unwise, imprudent, immature messengers in person on foot?
 - iv. The third option sounds a little crazy doesn't it?
 - b. In Luke 10, Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem
 - i. He had already commissioned the twelve to preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the cities of Israel (Luke 8; Mat. 10)
 - ii. Now he selected seventy others of his disciples to visit the cities and towns that he personally would be visiting on his way to Jerusalem.
- II. KEY THOUGHT: The mission and instructions given to these seventy disciples of Jesus can give us encouragement and instruction in our duty of sharing the gospel of the kingdom with others
- III. The Seventy
 - a. Where they were to go (10:1)
 - i. Every place Jesus was going to be
 - ii. What about today? Everywhere!
 - b. How they were to go
 - i. Two by two (10:1)
 1. A good plan
 2. Mutual support and encouragement
 3. counsel and comfort
 - ii. With regard to the need (10:2)
 1. The picture
 - a. Two facts
 - i. The harvest is great – Lost souls
 - ii. The laborers are few – Those who will reach them
 - b. In a physical harvest, if there are not enough laborers, the harvest will spoil before it can be gathered
 - c. In the harvest of souls, a lack of workers has eternal consequences
 - d. Some lost souls will never hear and respond if there are not enough workers
 2. Is there any less need today?
 3. 100,000 souls in Roanoke
 4. Over 200,000 in the surrounding communities
 5. There is much to do, there is work on every hand
 - iii. With Prayer (10:2)

1. To God
- iv. Forewarned of danger and adversity
 1. It won't be easy
 2. They are lambs among wolves
- v. No money bag, knapsack or sandals (10:4)
 1. Two thoughts being expressed
 2. Without baggage
 - a. Similar thoughts expressed elsewhere
 - i. Not two tunics, sandals or staffs – Matt 10:9-10
 - ii. Nothing but a staff and sandals – Mark 6:8-9
 - iii. The main idea is that they were not to attempt to supply themselves for every possibility and bring a wagon full of supplies to meet their needs
 - b. They were to rely on the hospitality of the communities where they went to provide for themselves
 - c. This left them open to the possibility of discomfort and need
 - d. But it also enabled them to cover more ground and accomplish more work
 - e. What baggage do we need to get rid of?
 - i. The baggage of sin
 - ii. The baggage of excessive worldly commitments
 - iii. The baggage of fear or feelings of ineptitude
 - iv. The baggage of apathy
 - v. The baggage of discouragement
 - vi. Heb. 12:1-2
 3. Without taking time to “gear up”
 - a. Sometimes we think about what we will do for the Lord not based of what we have, but what we lack
 - i. If I had X, Y or Z, then I would
 - ii. We end up disqualifying ourselves for all kinds of good works
 - b. We cannot excuse ourselves from the work God has given us by explaining to God that He has not provided us with what we need
 - i. God to Moses – What is in your hand? – Ex. 4:2
 - ii. God to Moses – Who made man's mouth? – Ex. 4:11
 - c. This mindset overlooks an oft-repeated principle of service to Jesus

1. Those who accepted would be blessed
2. Those who rejected would be judged
- ii. They were agents of Jesus Christ in this matter (10:16)
 1. Any actions toward them would be viewed as if done to Jesus Himself
- iii. Their work was accepted, approved and expanded (10:17-20)
- iv. Jesus was delighted – (10:21)
 1. In their faithful and fruitful service he could see the beginnings of the salvation of the whole world
 2. The defeat of Satan's powers of sin and death
 3. How often did Jesus' disciple see the man of Sorrows filled with joy?
 4. What can I do to cause Jesus to rejoice?

IV. Conclusion

- a. God has infinite resources and He has a message that He wants delivered to the whole world
 - i. How will He do it?
 - ii. He didn't choose the angels
 - iii. He didn't choose a global public address system
 - iv. He didn't choose to use an inner voice to proclaim the gospel
 - v. He didn't choose the wise or the prudent
 - vi. He chose you and me
 - vii. 1 Cor. 1:20-21
- b. I hope this study has provoked within you a strong desire to take action to let the world around you know that the kingdom of God has come near.
 - i. What can I do?
 - ii. Next week:
 1. examine the work of evangelism being currently done by this congregation
 2. Provide ideas and suggestions of how every member of this congregation can play a role in spreading the gospel
- c. Invitation