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 commission 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 laborors 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
i. We don’t have to be a super-Christian to serve Christ, and be expected to serve

ii. To him who has, more will be given


iv. Much will be required - Luke 12:48

d. Jesus answers the objection “But I don’t have …” by telling us, “Then go without it”

vi. In haste – no greetings on the road (Luke 10:4)

1. They were on a mission from Jesus

2. No delay

   a. Gehazi – 2 Kings 4:29

   b. To lay Elisha’s staff on the face of a dead child

3. Parallel

   a. The souls of men are dead in sin

   b. Christ can give them life

   c. But only if we get to them in time

   d. Should there be urgency there?

c. How they were to conduct themselves

i. Pray for the good of each home and individual encountered (10:5-6)

ii. Freely receive hospitality (10:7-8)

   1. Whatever is provided

      a. Rich or poor fare

      b. Whether it suits your tastes or not

      c. Not as charity but as wages

   2. Do not go from house to house

      a. Be content with what is provided

      b. Don’t seek to improve your lot by moving from place to place

iii. Help those who needed help (10:9)

   1. They healed the sick

   2. They also cast out demons (10:17)

   3. We should also use whatever gifts we have been given to serve others in the name of the Lord

iv. Announce the kingdom of God (10:9-11)

   1. Whether it is welcomed or not

   2. Some would respond favorably

      a. They were to tell them

      b. the kingdom of God has come near you

   3. Some would reject them

      a. They were to tell them

      b. the kingdom of God has come near you

      c. With a warning

d. The results

   i. Depended on the hearers (10:12-15)
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