

Bible Study Notes
Week of September 21, 2008
Luke 10: 1-23 JOY

Luke 10

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

5 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

13 "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.

16 "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

- I. Advice to study leaders:
- a. Use OIA questions
 - = Observation questions
 - I = Interpretation questions
 - A = Application questions
 - b. Also use process questions: what else? what more?
 - c. Pace the study—move on—conclude strong
 - d. Reword—put questions in wording that works for you.
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Opening question (possible): Think of a time when you have experienced great joy. Who were the people around you that you shared your joy with?

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading (if you haven't already prayed)
- Read text (I often let people read it over silently and then have it read aloud).

Overview observation question: Who are the key characters mentioned in this passage?

first section—verses 1-9:

- What is Jesus asking the 72 men that he's sending out to do?

Note on the significance of the 72: the number of missionaries sent out parallels the number of nations thought to exist in the world and so suggests the deliberate inclusion of Gentiles.

- What was their primary message?

- I Why do you think Jesus sent them out in pairs?

- I What is the significance of his request that they not take a purse or bag or sandals? Not to greet anyone on the road?

- I What does the nature of the work tell us about Jesus' view of the seventy two that he sent?

- I How do these men feel about Jesus? How do you know this?

- A Have you ever done something for Jesus that has been risky or difficult or life-altering?

second section—verses 10-16:

I What qualities would these people need in order to carry out the request Jesus was making of them in v 10-11?

- What reassurance did Jesus give to his followers to help them through the difficult 'ministry moments' ahead? What did he reveal about his relationship with those he was sending out?

Some Biblical/Historical Context:

v. 12 Sodom, destroyed along with Gomorrah (Gen 19:24-29), represents the consequences of ignoring God's warning to repent

v 13-14 The probable site of Korazin along with that of Bethsaida is near Capernaum, at the north end of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus concentrated his

ministry. The comparison with the pagan Phoenician towns of Tyre and Sidon suggests utter rebellion against the Lord. Those ancient towns suffered drastic judgment for their proud opposition to God and his people (Isa 23:1-18; Jer 25:22; 47:4; Ezek 26:1-28:23; Joel 3:4-8; Amos 1:9-10).

third section—verses 17-21

- What words would you use to describe the scene of the reunion of Jesus with the 72 in verse 17?
 - I Where do you think their joy came from?
 - A In our context – 21st Century America Suburbs - what places do we often go in order to find joy? How does this story challenge our assumptions about the source of joy?

 - A Have you ever experienced joy with others – even through a time of difficulty or hardship? Where has that joy come from?

- What clarifying comment did Jesus make about their source of Joy?

- How would you describe Jesus' feelings about the work his servants had done?
 - I What does it tell you about the nature of Jesus' relationship with his children? Their relationship to him?

 - A **Where do you need to discover joy in your life this year?
How can this group help you experience that joy?
How can greater closeness to Jesus help you experience that joy?
Are there ways in which our serving together might bring us joy this year?**