

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 10- Luke 10:1-24**

193- The Five Portraits of a Kingdom Ministry- Part 2

March 10, 2013

Luke 10:1-24

1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

2 And He was saying to them, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**

3 Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

4 Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way.

5 Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace *be* to this house.'

6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

8 Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you;

9 and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

10 But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say,

11 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off *in protest* against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

12 I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.

13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you.

15 And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades!

16 "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.

20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

21 At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

22 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*."

23 Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things you see,

24 for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see *them*, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear *them*."

To the Glory of God

Now this Passage is somewhat lengthy- but I wanted to take it as a whole in order to get the flavor of what Jesus was teaching here and then divide it up into about five parts.

1. The Characteristics of Biblical Evangelism (Luke 10:1-4)
2. The Message of a Biblical Ministry (Luke 10:5-11)
3. The Divine Warning of Rejecting the Gospel (Luke 10:12-16)
4. The Danger of Pride in Biblical Ministry (Luke 10:17-20)
5. The Delight of God in Biblical Ministry (Luke 10:21-24)

Now this morning- we're going to look at the first one- which is:

1. The Characteristics of Biblical Evangelism.

Luke 10:1-4

1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

2 And He was saying to them, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**

3 Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

4 Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way.

Now in this Passage- we see the characteristics that our Lord requires of those who will be "Kingdom Missionaries". And what we have to learn is that these characteristics are both necessary and ones that are imputed to us.

Now they were absolutely unique to those Apostles and to the 70 that are described here because they actually followed Jesus- literally- they saw His miracles with their eyes. And of course this was done to bring them to the place that they needed to be so that they could believe that

Jesus is the Christ- the Son of the living God

And that is the Common Confession with all who are genuinely saved- even in our day. All who are truly born again believe and confess and teach and love and defend the very same Confession that God Sovereignly gave to Peter and the Apostles which has to do with the Person and the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ in his Life and in His Death and in His Resurrection and in His Ascension and in His Coming Again. So from that standpoint- we are equal with the Apostles and with the 70 in that we are equally saved and equally adopted into the Family of God and equally heirs to the Resurrection that is coming and eternal life in Heaven with God..

However the Apostles and the 70 were unique and set aside and different and distinct from us in that they were given Divine Power to

bring credibility to the Words that they preached and taught by performing miraculous signs and wonders. Read what **Luke 10:9** says:

and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

So the Apostles along with these 70 men could heal those that were sick. And all of this was unique those who were used by God to establish Christianity on the earth. That part is *not* transferable to us. And we need to understand why.

It isn't because God has changed because the Bible teaches that God is Immutable and that he never changes. It isn't because God has lost His Power because God is both Eternal and Omnipotent which means that His Power and Authority over every area of the Universe is supreme and absolute and cannot be annulled or defeated. It also isn't because we don't have enough faith to believe in these things because anyone who has been granted the gift of faith to be able to trust in the finished Work of Christ and be saved has enough faith to do whatever it is that God has called them to do.

No, as we have studied many times before- the only reason why signs and wonders and miracles and healings and those various "sign gifts" of the Holy Spirit are not visible in the earth today is because they accomplished what they were sent to do. They did their work; they performed the task that God intended for them to do.

You see, Signs and Wonders and Miracles and the Gifts of Healing and those various supernatural manifestations are called, "Sign Gifts". They were never sent so that everybody who was sick or hurt could be healed; they were never designed to rescue everybody who was imprisoned; they were never designed to bring deliverance to everybody who was bound.

No, these signs Gifts were sent by God to the early Church to simply give Divine Credibility to the radical and the new Covenant that God was giving to Man by and through the Sinless Life and Atoning Death and glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that would forever displace and replace and supersede the inferior Old Covenant.

For example- God through Moses commanded animal sacrifice through the Old Covenant and every genuine believer from the day that God gave the partial Revelation to Moses until the Resurrection of

Jesus Christ was commanded to sacrifice animals. There was no true worship of God by anyone without the sacrificing of animals. Nobody came into God's Presence except they first slayed an animal and shed its blood.

And the result was that millions of animals were sacrificed by the Levitical priests over the centuries in which the Old Covenant was in force. Now understand that this wasn't optional- it was a Command of God to sacrifice animals under the Old Covenant. But along with that Command to every believer to sacrifice animals- came the distinct information that even though this partial Revelation was Divine- this type of worship of the one true living God was only *temporary* and that it would one day be entirely replaced by an infinitely *superior* Revelation that spoke of an infinitely *superior* Covenant that was based on infinitely *superior* Promises and was brought forth an infinitely *superior* Priesthood Who would offer an infinitely *superior* Sacrifice.

And that is the Lord Jesus Christ- Who was offered one time for the sins of the whole world. And at the very instant of His Resurrection- Jesus abolished forever the sacrificing of animals as a means to worship God. And this was so true that anyone who offered an animal in sacrifice to God in genuine worship after the Resurrection of Jesus was committing an abomination. Not only did God not regard their animal sacrifices after that point- but it was a terrible insult to think that God would receive the blood of an animal after the sinless Blood of Jesus was shed on the Cross.

So Peter and James and John and the other Apostles began to preach and teach that there was no further need for *anyone* to sacrifice animals after the Resurrection of Jesus because God had done what He said He was going to do all along- and He had wondrously brought forth the glorious New Covenant- which completely replaced the Old and the Priesthood and the animal sacrifice and the Temple Worship along with it.

And yet because God had commanded Moses to order the sacrificing of animals in the Old Testament Scriptures and because they had been doing that for centuries after Moses had written those inspired Scriptures down- it was very difficult for the people to trust that God had truly replaced the Old Covenant with the infinite superiority of the New.

So God visited the Apostles and the 70 Divine Power and

Authority to give irrefutable proof that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah and that the Gospel was indeed the infinitely superior New Covenant and the Teachings of the Apostles and the others found in the 27 Books of the New Covenant was equally inspired as was the 39 Books of the Old Covenant.

So there is a distinction between the “Sign Gifts” that brought Divine Credibility to the final, full, and completed Revelation of God in the New Covenant- which was only temporary and the “Ministry Gifts” that equip and empower and anoint men today to teach, preach, and proclaim that Revelation that will be in force until Jesus comes back.

But all the other components of the Ministry of the Apostles and the 70- the spiritual dimensions, the attitude, the message, the warning, the joy and the consequent joy of the Lord all applies to us today.

So I believe that this is going to be a rich, instructive and rewarding section of Luke as we work our way through it. But let's take the first four verses so we can see the appropriate characteristics for a Kingdom Missionary.

Now if you're going to do Evangelism- Biblically- if you're going to be a missionary; if you're going to proclaim the Kingdom of God; if you're going to tell people about the King- the Lord Jesus Christ- it's going to start with your heart. You can train people in pure theology until you're blue in the face and you can give them all kinds of information and you can load their theological gun and you can give them strategies and methodologies- but after all is said and one- truly effective evangelism that glorifies God and that brings Truth to people is carried out by highly motivated people. Understand that. It's not about training- it's about motivation. It's not about what you know, it's about Who you know and Who knows you and what really drives you. And that's what we're going to see in this opening section. So let's look again at **Luke 10:1**:

Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

Now the phrase that was translated into English as, “**after this**” is actually the Greek word, *tauta*. And it means that what Dr. Luke writes here in **Luke 10:1** is subsequent to what went on in Chapter 9.

So this event here in verses 1-24 is *subsequent* to the Calling of the Twelve and their Commissioning in the beginning of Chapter 9 and it is subsequent to the Instruction that Jesus gave to them and it is *subsequent* to the Divine Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, and it is *subsequent* to the close of the Galilean Ministry and it is *subsequent* to verse **Luke 9:51** where Jesus was resolutely setting His Face to go to Jerusalem.

So at this point the Galilean ministry is over and Jesus is now going to go down to Jerusalem. And Jesus has less than a year left in His earthly ministry. And the move down to Jerusalem is going to be a back and forth movement through Judea and over across the Jordan as the Lord moves around and ministers in towns and villages- proclaiming the Kingdom of God and Salvation.

So the good doctor is telling us here in Verse 1 that subsequent to the end of the ministry in Galilee and subsequent to Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem which began with a visit in Samaria- the Lord appointed these 70 other men into Gospel Ministry.

Now the word "appointed" was translated from the Greek word, *anadeiknumi* (*ah-nah-dayee- k-new-me*) and it's a word that is used only two times in the entire New Testament. The only other place it is used is in **The Acts 1:24** where it says that the Lord chose the replacement of Judas. And this is just another piece of Biblical evidence that shows us that no one can be an Apostle by his own will. Men do not simply choose to be an Apostle or begin to simply call themselves an Apostle because they get some kind of impression or because they seek to impress other people.

A true Apostle can only be chosen by the Lord Himself and so the Bible says that the Lord Mathias to replace Judas. And here the Lord divinely selects "70". Now some manuscripts say "72" and you may see a little marginal note or a foot note in your Bible that says "72". But we have no way of being sure that "72" is the correct so most translators are comfortable with "70".

Now why 70? Why did Jesus choose 70? The Bible simply doesn't tell us. There is a lot of speculation- but the simple truth is that we just don't know- so I'm not going to waste any time in that speculation. All we know for sure is that Jesus chose these 70.

But out of the large group of mathetes- the learners or the students who were following Jesus all around- Jesus chose these men. They are selected and that is what the word, “appoint” means.

Now what were these 70 men selected to do? Dr. Luke tells us in the last part of verse 1:

sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.

... so Jesus sent these men out “two by two”. So there were thirty-five pairs of these men sent out to every city and place where Jesus was going to come. So these men were the advance team for Jesus- they were ones who would go into a town and announce the arrival of the coming King. And as we learned when we were studying about John Baptist- this was a traditional way to do that back in the 1st Century. Whenever the king was going to come to a town or a village- heralds would go ahead of him and they would blow horns and call the town into the city square and make the announcement that the monarch was going to arrive and that they should get ready to receive him.

And so Jesus was going to spend the remaining months of His Life going from town to town and village to village on His way down to Jerusalem to die and He wanted the people to be prepared for Him when He got there.

So here are 70 messengers going out two by two into towns and giving the message that Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord, the Savior, the King is coming. And they would be saying Who He was and why He had come to get the people ready. So these men are the advanced missionaries who proclaim the Good News of the Gospel of Salvation through the King, the Messiah, the Savior- Jesus Christ.

So they are not unlike us because that is our responsibility too. We are the force of Kingdom missionaries in our day. The difference between them and us is that we're not telling people about a Messiah Who is *coming*- we're telling people about a Messiah Who has already come- but the ministry is the very same and the Messiah, of course, is also the same. So we are among that same force- who goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel to every creature. We are among that force that goes and makes disciples of all nations. We are among those who go in Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth. So from

that standpoint- we have much more in common with these 70 than we do with the Apostles as we learned last week. Their Ministry was unique and was for a special time for a special reason. Our Mission is *ongoing* and will be in force until Jesus returns. And so the instruction and the inner action that Jesus has with these 70 men is very helpful for us today because we are called to the same responsibility.

Now there are at least 5 characteristics of a Biblical Ministry that Jesus talks about here in these first four verses that we need to make sure that we have in our Ministry as well.

- A. Genuine Concern for the Lost
- B. Genuine Humility
- C. Genuine Urgency
- D. Genuine Perseverance
- E. Genuine Trust

So let's examine these together.

A. Biblical Ministry is Carried Out by Those Who Have a Genuine Concern for the Lost.

Luke 10:2

And He was saying to them, "**The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**"

And this genuine concern for the lost doesn't stand alone- it is the natural and normal result of having two things:

- 1) A Biblical Knowledge of God
- 2) A Biblical Knowledge of Man

B. Biblical Ministry Consists of a Genuine Humility

Luke 10:2b

... therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

The word that was translated here as “beseech” has to do with great anguish and sincerity. So you don't just pray for the Salvation of lost people- you beg; plead; cry out to God for the souls of the lost. This is a kind of praying that is deep and profound and anguishing and it is best likened to a begging or a pleading rather than simply asking.

And Who do you beg? Jesus says we beg and plead to “The Lord of the Harvest”. We pray to the only One Who can *make* the Harvest of souls happen; the only One Who can Sovereignly *violate* Man’s will that naturally and normally runs away from God and that cares nothing for God; the only One Who can graciously *impose* the gift of faith on anyone and the only One Who can mercifully *impart* or *grant* the gift of repentance.

Now there are a thousand implications to the phrase, “Lord of the Harvest” and the concept that goes along with it- but here are just a few. We beg the Lord of the Harvest because:

- ✓ Being fallen means that repenting of sin and trusting in Christ is more than a simple choice that people make.
- ✓ Because Mercy is not owed to anyone
- ✓ Because Grace cannot be earned or deserved
- ✓ Because faith is given by God’s Prerogative- not Man’s
- ✓ Because repentance is granted by God’s Free Will- not Man’s

So Who is the Lord of the Harvest? Well, He is the Judge. Over in **John 5:22** it says,

... not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,

So despite public opinion to the contrary- the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is going to be the Judge. And that means that Christ is the Divine Executioner. And this is amazing. So here we have the Lord Himself- the Lord of the Harvest- say,

"Pray to Me and ask Me to send laborers to go out to deliver people from Me."

It's amazing. It is the Lord Himself in **2Thessalonians 1**, the Lord

Jesus who is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, to those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus." It is Jesus Who is the Lord of the Harvest. It is Jesus Who is the One Who comes back with the sword in His Mouth. It is Jesus Who brings the sickle along with the angels who attend His Return. So it is Jesus Who is the Judge. It is Jesus Who is the Divine Executioner. And it is also Jesus Who is the One Who hears your prayer and sends the people to deliver those who are perishing from His Execution.

Another way of understanding this is that we are supposed to pray to Jesus that He will send somebody to deliver people from Jesus. So we pray to the Son of God and ask Him to send more messengers to reach this great Harvest to deliver them from the Son of God.

So when you think about it- we are saved from hell- absolutely. But Biblical Salvation primarily is about sinful guilty humans being rescued or delivered from the Wrath of God against their sins. So in this context here in Luke 10- Jesus says that we are to pray to Jesus so that Jesus will send messengers to preach the Gospel so that people will repent and trust in Jesus so that they will be rescued from Jesus as their Judge.

So this is one the places in the Bible where we get the concept that if Jesus is not your Lord and your Master and your Savior- then He will absolutely be your Judge. Our compassionate Lord seeks to rescue people from His own Wrath through the prayers of believers who beseech Him for more messengers to work in rescuing souls from Him.

So the Divine Executioner becomes the very Source of messengers to deliver people from His Own Execution. And then you can take this even further and say that the Divine Executioner is Himself executed to save people from His Execution. This is the wonder of the Gospel.

Now what is also amazing is that you can't get on your knees and beg the Lord to raise up more messengers to preach to lost people honestly without having great conviction if you're not preaching to lost people yourself. So this kind of praying is special because it pulls you into it and makes you a part of it.

C. A Biblical Ministry has a Genuine Urgency to It.

Luke 10:3

Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

Now you can't tell about this from the English here- but this word, "Go" comes from the Greek word, *hupagote* which is an interesting word. And the tense of the verb here is a present imperative. So what Jesus is saying here is, "*Go and keep on going.*" And the "going" here has a strong urgency to it. Go- now! Other English translations say, "*Go your way*" which has the same effect. So there is an urgency here. There is no time to waste; no delay; no time to go back to gather anything from your homes; no time for extensive training.

So this is another distinction between these 70 and us and the Apostles. The Apostles were highly trained- 3-1/2 years with Jesus Himself- the only Perfect Teacher. All Church leaders should be highly trained today precisely because we are so far removed from these Biblical events and there is so much false teaching and heresy and compromise out there. Ministers today should be in constant ongoing deep and serious training- not necessarily formal Seminary- but serious ongoing training. And those Church leaders today who do not think enough of his to spend time being taught and continue to learn and read and study are not going to lead my soul anywhere.

But these 70 here and those today who are simply out there trying to lead others to Christ- if you knew enough to be saved yourself- then you know enough to tell somebody else how to be saved. So don't shirk the duty of evangelism because you don't feel you have enough formal and specific training.

There was no training here with these people. The Lord just collects 70 who have denied themselves, taken up their crosses, and followed Him and proven that they are genuine and true believers. They have entered into His Kingdom. And that's enough to go your way and tell them Jesus is coming.

So this Mission is immediate and it is urgent. The time is short- literally here because the cross of execution for Jesus is only a few short months away and there are many, many, many villages and towns all across Judea and across the Jordan, that need to be ready for His coming and they need a full explanation of Who He is so that when He gets there they'll be ready to receive what He has to say.

So all Biblical Evangelism is immediate. And I say this, if you are a Christian, I don't care if you were saved five years ago or you were

saved yesterday, start today with your ministry of evangelism. It's urgent. Today is the day of Salvation- This is the time, don't wait one more day.

D. A Biblical Ministry Demonstrates Perseverance

Luke 10:3

Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

True Biblical Ministers are like lambs among wolves. And again- if you were recruiting people into the Ministry of your own religion- this would not be a very good way of getting great preachers. Telling people up front that they are like lambs among wolves is not the normal way to attract qualified and energetic ministers. This isn't the pragmatic way of building the Church. And this isn't the way that the modern church growth gurus teach in their latest best sellers either.

So once again- this shows us the complete Honesty of Jesus Christ. He never lowered His Standards in order to attract more people into the Church or into Ministry. Jesus never bought into what is so popular today- using human rationale or human reason or pragmatism to build His Church. Jesus didn't buy into the concept of teaching in sound bites or simply hitting the high points and moving on because you can't expect people to sit and listen to serious deep adult sermons about serious and eternal matters in an age of I-pads and instant coffee.

In fact- Jesus went so much against the grain of conventional thinking that He set the bar so high that no human being on earth can ever meet up with His Standard of Salvation or Ministry- absent a Sovereign Act of God to graciously and supernaturally empower and enable that person. But Jesus did that all the time and in doing it this way and not the way of fallen Man- God gets all the Glory.

What we need to know is that all of the Apostles in the Bible had a fate that was inescapably tied to horrendous persecution. And as I mentioned a last week- this is one of the most glaring distinctions between these men here in the Bible who were true Apostles and those who lay claim to being an Apostle in our day. While the modern self-appointed and unaccountable prima donnas prance around with their entourage and their "armor bearers" and their pomp and their luxury and their penthouse apartments in Manhattan paid for by the widows

and orphans that they have deceived- these men here- these genuine Apostles- were all terribly abused and beaten and imprisoned and rejected and scorned and all but John were martyred and yet they all remained absolutely resolute and absolutely faithful to the end- 100% of them. After the Resurrection- none of the Apostles waivered; none of them turned; none of them left their post; and none of them failed in their mission. They were- to a man- utterly faithful to Jesus and persevered to the end under very hard circumstances.

But this shouldn't surprise us because that is exactly what Jesus told them. If you go back to **Matthew 10:16-23** He said the same thing to them when He said,

Matthew 10:16-23

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

17 "But beware of men, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and scourge you in their synagogues;

18 and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

19 "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say.

20 "For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

22 "You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

23 "But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish *going through* the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

So in a Biblical Ministry- you've got to watch out for the civil government and the justice system and the established religious system because they are going to get you. And they will say that you are preaching hate and division and they will pass laws to silence you and bring you before governors and kings. And not only that- but brother will deliver up brother to death and father will deliver up his own child and children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be

put to death, and you'll be hated by all people on account of the great and glorious Name of Jesus and the full and correct and the fearless preaching of the Word of God. Jesus promised them and all who follow Him this persecution. So believe God and expect it.

So what this all means is that all true Biblical Ministers realize that they have no strength in themselves and that their own faithfulness- their own ability and desire to preserve does not originate from inside of them- but is simply the result of the majestic Grace of God at work in their lives- to the Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel.

So the Divine Call to engage in a Biblical Ministry demands and expects the greatest level of commitment possible. Jesus expects and demands total and absolute and unconditional surrender over every area of your life. So Evangelism that is effective in bringing all the Glory to God requires this kind of focus and this genuine concern for the lost; and this genuine humility; and this genuine urgency; and this genuine perseverance. But there is one more.

E. A Biblical Ministry Requires Genuine Trust

Luke 10:4

"Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way.

Now this is exactly what we learned back in **Luke 9:3**. Back then we saw what the Lord said when He sent out the original Twelve:

Luke 9:3

And He said to them, "Take nothing for *your* journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not *even* have two tunics apiece.

Now why did Jesus say this? Why is all this necessary? Are we supposed to be like the homeless? Bouncing from handout to handout? No, but for this time- here with these men- this was the original boot camp. This is where the very first preachers of the Gospel learned how to engage in a genuine Biblical Ministry for all who came after them to emulate. Remember- this has never happened before. The incarnate God had never commissioned sinful humans to go in His stead to the world to preach the Gospel to every creature. The closest thing to these

Apostles here were the individual Prophets that were used by God under the Old Covenant. But those men operated basically alone and not in groups. Here we have the beginning of the Christian Church- that is infinitely superior to individual prophets.

So initially- it was vitally important that these men learn to trust God- and I would suggest to you that after 2,000 years- we have that very same need in our day as well. It is a common aspect in modern Ministry to lean on Man and to gradually begin to trust in the arm of flesh and the strength of people and the comfort of acceptance and the lure of money and the fear of rejection and the end is that many, many Ministers begin to tailor their sermons to appease men rather than God and to not say certain things that they believe will be offensive and to shy away from aspects of the Bible that are insulting to the pride of Man.

So Jesus is determined here to teach Trust in God to these 70- even as He did to the Apostles. And one of the best teachers of all is the very same intense persecution that Jesus promised. So Jesus tells these men here that they will learn how to trust in Him real fast on this mission because hardship is coming their way.

It is one thing to sort of play around with the novelty of seeing the negative reaction of people as you preach the Gospel to them- as long as you can retreat to the safety of your own home and possessions that are not negatively affected by the reaction of these people. But it is quite another thing to begin to lose income and safety and material possessions because of the reaction that people have toward what you preach and then to continue to preach it- regardless of the cost that you are personally paying. It is one thing to sing, "I'd rather Have Jesus Than Anything" when you are not actually losing what you have as a result of your Ministry. But it really doesn't count and you really not learning how to trust in Jesus until you begin to actually pay a price- and then I tell you- Jesus truly becomes sweet and better than everything this world has to offer.

So Jesus tells these men that they will personally be affected by what they preach and that this will cause them to learn how to trust in Him. So He tells them to go and you take nothing with them. Carry no purse- the Greek word is *ballantion* and it means a bag to carry money in. So Jesus doesn't want these 70 to carry any money with them. And they are to carry no bag- and that is a travel bag with their extra stuff

in it and whatever junk they want to carry along. So Jesus says, *“Don’t carry that with you, either.”*

But what about food? Don’t these men need to plan ahead to feed 70 men three squares a day? That’s a lot of grub. That would take massive kitchens and massive storage and several cooks working full time, right? Wrong. Jesus said, *“I’ll take care of that for you- you just go and preach and trust Me to feed you.”* And there is no record we can find anywhere that any of these men starved.

But where will 70 men sleep? Don’t we need to build bungalows and have quartermasters who can provide sheets and pillows and bunks for 70 men? But Jesus said, *“You go and preach and trust me to worry about that. I’ll take care of all of that for you. What I’m asking out of you is that you go empty handed in absolute trust.”* And again- there is no record that any of these men got sick because of sleep deprivation. God somehow made a way for them.

And so, this is a spiritual boot camp. And it's not always going to be this way. This sort of brutal condition was only temporary. Turn with me quickly to **Luke 22**.

Luke 22:35-38

35 And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing."

36 And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one."

37 "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has its fulfillment."

38 They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

You see, Jesus proved Himself when these men had nothing. He came through and provided all that they needed- all the food they needed, all the housing they needed, whatever they needed. And so after Jesus proved that he would be with them- He said to them in verse 36,

"But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag,

and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.

And so what Jesus was saying was that their spiritual boot camp was over and Jesus proved these men and they fully trusted in Him and so now it was time to take a bag and to take some money.

Now finally, Jesus makes a very strange statement here at the end of verse 4 when He said,

Luke 10:4b

... greet no one on the way.

Well what in the world does that mean? Why doesn't Jesus want these 70 men to greet people? How are you going to preach the Gospel if you're not going to talk to anybody? What in the world does Jesus mean by this statement?

Well, what Jesus is actually saying is, *"I don't want you to slow down or stop."* You see, back in the 1st Century- a "greeting" was not just *"Hi, how are you doing?"* To greet people back then was to actually sit down and have a meal and stay with somebody for several days and chew the fat and build a friendship with them and perhaps even get some support from them.

So greeting people back then meant to be distracted and of getting people to help them. And in this temporary spiritual boot camp- Jesus was teaching these 70 men to not depend on friendships to sustain them. Don't depend on making relationships with people so that they provide for them. In other words- don't go the human route. Just go- and don't stop to make relationships- and know this- I will provide for you- even if you have no human relationships to depend on. So that's again pointing toward the lesson of trust.

So genuine Biblical Ministries will always be cared for by strangers and not family or even friends. God will bring total strangers together who will be saved and be drawn by God the Holy Spirit to unite together as the family of God- because your own family and friends will probably forsake you.

So all genuine Biblical Ministries have these five characteristics- these five traits: A Genuine Concern for the Lost; A Genuine Humility; A Genuine Urgency; Genuine Perseverance; and a Genuine Trust in

God- and we should all strive to assure that that is what our Ministry looks like today.

Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.