

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**

197- The Five Portraits of a Kingdom Ministry- Part 6

April 14, 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 as I said when I began this small mini-series six weeks ago- 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 we have already looked at the first three of these and today if God is pleased- I want to examine the fourth Characteristic and that is:

4. The Danger of Pride in Biblical Ministry

Luke 10:17-20

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."

Dedrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany. He was part of the Protestant Resistance to the Nazis. He was imprisoned for his resistance and his devotion to the Gospel. And finally on April 9th, 1945, he was hanged as a criminal by the Nazis. Many years ago when I was just a young Christian, I read his book called *The Cost of Discipleship*. It was a very important book in my life and had a profound effect upon me.

I mean, I basically lived in an insulated world. I didn't know too many people who were hanged for their faith in Christ- there were none in my Church and none in my family. And I began to read about a kind of discipleship that was different than what I saw. Bonhoeffer said,

"When Christ calls a man, He bids him, 'Come and die.'"

It was Bonhoeffer who coined the phrase, "Cheap grace"- referring to people who preach about a Grace that makes no demands on the believer. And he called the Church to true discipleship that transforms people into followers of Christ who are self-denying and will pay whatever the cost Christ asks. Bonhoeffer also wrote in that book,

"The only man who has a right to say he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ."

He understood that. He didn't understand it just experientially, he understood it biblically and then he lived it experientially.

Well the 70 in this Passage were like Bonhoffer. They understood this. And they said, *"We will make the sacrifice. And if Jesus chooses for us to live- we live. If He chooses for us to die- we die- just let us serve Christ."*

Now we don't know what happened to the 70. We know from this very Passage that they all returned safely at the end of their first evangelistic Mission- but we don't know what happened to the later on. It's fair to assume that some of them may have been martyred along the way. But the point is, these men were willing to make that sacrifice.

So the first thing we must understand is that when God has equipped us to be willing to make that kind of sacrifice- there is nothing Satan can do to overpower the Gospel witness that we give in the Sovereign Purpose and Will of God. And when God so chooses- the Message that we preach- the Gospel that we proclaim- it shatters the grip of Satan; it *violently* opens the prison doors and it *forcefully* sets free the imprisoned souls from the kingdom of darkness and *victoriously* delivers them into the Kingdom of God's Son.

And even though they hate us for this- the demons and the fallen angels and those who align themselves with these unclean spirits can do nothing to harm us- unless it is part of God's Plan and Will. And even then- they cannot touch our immortal souls- they can only harm our bodies.

So we must remember whether we are having great success in Evangelism or whether it is very hard and difficult- that there is something far more wonderful than anything we do or possess down here and that is all that God has prepared for us in the Glory of His eternal Heaven.

And so in the end- after everything is said and done- it is the Joy And that is before us that equips us to pay any price and to be a true and faithful follower of our Lord Jesus. But as we do that- as we consistently endeavor to obey God's Commandments and rejoice in our Salvation- we are plagued by pride and self-righteousness and

arrogance that hinders our walk with God and dishonors the very Lord we seek to serve.

We struggle to obey but when we do- we are tempted to take credit for it as though it was our own strength or our own will power that brought forth that obedience. We preach the Gospel or pass out a tract and somebody repents and trusts in Christ and then we are tempted to rob God of His Glory by thinking that our effort saved that soul. And nowhere is that more true than in Ministry and nowhere in Ministry is it more evident than right here in **Luke 10** with the 70.

So in order to stay focused on the eternal rewards and the Glory of God and the *reason* why we are doing all of this- we must wage a purposeful and relentless war against our own human pride. And for help with this battle- we look at God's Own Attitude toward our human arrogance and our own human self-righteousness and pride. Here what God says from **Jeremiah 9:23&24**:

23 Thus says the LORD , “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches;
24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD .

As believers- we are all too aware that our hearts are deceitful and untrustworthy and unreliable as a gauge of our own spirituality faithfulness. Because we are fallen- we have an enormous capacity to be deceived and to think that we are doing good when in fact- we are living and operating in raw sin and dishonoring the Lord by the very things that we take such great comfort in. Therefore- we must be relentlessly vigilant in the fight against pride.

The Bible is crystal clear that God is opposed to human pride and will eventually bring it all down. **Isaiah 2:12-17** says:

12 For the LORD of hosts will have a day *of reckoning* Against everyone who is proud and lofty And against everyone who is lifted up, That he may be abased.

13 And *it will be* against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, Against all the oaks of Bashan,

14 Against all the lofty mountains, Against all the hills that are lifted up,

15 Against every high tower, Against every fortified wall,
16 Against all the ships of Tarshish And against all the beautiful craft.
17 The pride of man will be humbled And the loftiness of men will be abased;
And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,

One part of pride is taking credit yourself for what God does.
Isaiah 10:12-15 says:

12 So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, *He will say*, “I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness.”

13 For he has said, “By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did *this*, For I have understanding; And I removed the boundaries of the peoples And plundered their treasures, And like a mighty man I brought down *their* inhabitants,

14 And my hand reached to the riches of the peoples like a nest, And as one gathers abandoned eggs, I gathered all the earth; And there was not one that flapped its wing or opened *its* beak or chirped.”

15 Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? *That would be* like a club wielding those who lift it, *Or* like a rod lifting *him who* is not wood.

We must constantly and openly take to heart that all we have is a gift of free Grace from a Kind and Merciful God Who gives and blesses *despite* our worthiness- not because of it. We do not deserve and have not earned *anything* from God’s Hand and even though that thought is patently offensive and highly irritating to so many in our modern culture that is mad with the development of self-esteem and to think highly of ourselves- it is nonetheless true.

And therefore if we are to be effective in Ministry – and what I mean by that- if we are to conduct Ministry in a Biblical Way- giving God all the Glory and taking none for ourselves- we must acknowledge our own impulse to love the praise of men and the temptation to cater our message so as to maximize human acceptance and put that hideous sin of pride on top of the table and look at it and warn each other about it- lest we fall into it and wallow in it. So there are several things that Biblical Ministries can do to expose pride in our own lives and confront it head on:

- The Apostle Paul was very aware of the danger of pride in his own ministry when he wrote in **1Corinthians 4:7** and said:

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

- And likewise Peter understood the danger of human pride in Ministry when he echoed the OT and said in **1Peter 5:5b&6**:

5 ...GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,

- Faithful Ministers constantly remind themselves that the true and full Revelation of God comes only to the humble. Jesus Himself taught this very Principal when he said in **Matthew 11:25**:

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

- We must always realize that entering the Kingdom of God depends on humility. **Matthew 18:3&4** says:

Matthew 18:3&4

3 and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

4 Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- We should rest in the Truth that all things are already yours in Christ.

1Corinthians 3:21-23

21 So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you,

22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you,

23 and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

But even though this section of God's Word warns us of the danger of Pride in the Ministry- that's not all it does. This passage also brings us great joy and eternal hope in the flow of the teaching in Luke's Gospel.

Now over the last several months- we've been facing some very Harsh Words from Jesus. There have been several hurdles that we have had to scale in order to reach this point here when demons are subject to the words and actions of the 70.

- ✓ Who is Jesus?
- ✓ What Constitutes True Salvation?
- ✓ How Do we Conduct Ministry Biblically?

So let's look at these for just a moment.

Who is Jesus?

The high point of the Revelation of Jesus to His disciples and Apostles came back in **Luke 9**. As you remember- back in **Luke 9:18**- the disciples gathered around Jesus and He questioned them saying,

"Who do the multitudes say that I am?"

And they answered and said,

"[Some say You are] John Baptist, and others say Elijah, but others that one of the prophets of old has risen again.' And He said to them,

'But who do you say that I am?'

And Peter, as spokesman for the entire group of Apostles, shows that the Revelation has been received and that these men have learned the Truth about Who Jesus is when he said in **Luke 9:20**:

... The Christ of God...

So this is the high point of the Revelation of Jesus. And these men get it. They now know Who Jesus is. He is the promised King,

bringing the Kingdom of Salvation. He is the One Who would come and be the ultimate sacrifice for sin. He is the promised Redeemer, the Christ, the Son of the living God.

What Constitutes True Salvation?

Luke 9:23

And He was saying to *them* all, **"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.**

Now that you know Who I am- if you want to come after Me- here's what is required. Let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me." And there is the hard call to discipleship because it operates against the grain of self-love; it functions against the grain of personal ambition and personal desire and self-will. True Salvation is Call to self-denial. It is a call to death and a taking up the cross. It is a call to submission- following obediently in all that the Lord asks and requires and demands.

It is what verse 24 calls,

"losing your life for Jesus' sake."

If anyone desires to follow Jesus- it will cost you everything. Whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. He is calling on those people then, as He does now, to give up their lives, to say, *"I abandon myself and I will answer the Call. Whatever it is that You want, Lord- I give it and I give it joyfully. I will serve You in self-denying obedience- even if it costs me my life."* That is the Value and the Worth and the Cost of true Biblical Salvation.

Now not in every case does the Lord ask us to die. And all of us here today are living testimony to that. But the reality is that coming to Christ is an *abandonment* to that- if indeed He does ask. It is essentially saying, "I want what You have- the forgiveness of all my sins; the hope of eternal life; and I so value that forgiveness and I so value that eternal life far more than this physical life that if and when You ask me, I'll be happy to give up everything that I have and

everything that I am and everything that I hope to be- including my own life to gain that eternal gift of Salvation.

And this is the hard part of the Call because it goes against the grain of one's own self-preservation, self-exaltation, and self-fulfillment. But not only does Jesus ask us to give up ourselves- but later in the ninth Chapter it's a matter of forsaking everything else in our world as well. In **Luke 9:57**- they were going along the road and someone said to Jesus,

"Okay, I'll follow You. I'll do that. I'll be self-denying. I'll be cross bearing. I'll be obedient. I'll follow You wherever You go, whatever it means I'm going to follow You."

But Jesus said to him,

"Well here's what that means: the foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests, the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head. I promise no creature comforts. It means that you're willing to say, I abandon all my hope for creature comforts."

And then Jesus said to another would be follower in verse 59,

"Follow Me."

But this guy said, *"Permit me first to go and bury my father"* And as we learned back then- his father wasn't even dead yet but this guy wanted to go home to receive his inheritance. So if Jesus didn't have any place to stay, He obviously didn't have any money either. And so if this guy was going to really follow Jesus- he was going to have to be self-reliant so he needed to go home until his father died; cash in on his inheritance; and then be able to fund the rest of his life following Jesus.

But as you remember- Jesus said to him, **"Allow the dead to bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the Kingdom of God."** In other words- you don't understand, the time is now, the need is urgent, there's no time for you to go home and get money. You've got to abandon all of that and give your life to the preaching of the Kingdom of God and trust Me to supply what it is that needs to be supplied.

And finally the third man came along- another would-be follower, and said, *"I'll follow You, Lord, first permit me to say goodbye to those at home."* In other words- let me go in and make sure in my house and in my family that everything is the way it should be and make sure that I take care of all those relationships and maybe even get some money from various relatives to support me. Jesus said to him, **"No one after putting his hand to the plow looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God."** In other words, the bottom line is, forget the family, forget the money, forget the creature comforts and get on about the business of the Kingdom.

So does it matter enough for you to say, *"I would give up everything?"* This is the parable of the pearl of great price, the treasure hidden in the field of **Matthew 13** where when the treasure was found and the pearl was found, the man sold everything for the pearl and the treasure. In other words, the Value of Christ is so supreme- no price is too high to pay. That's the true Call to Salvation. It's a Call to self-denial. It's a call to sacrifice. It's a call to death. It's a call to obedience without regard for comfort, money, or family. It isn't that the Lord will divest you of all of those things necessarily, it is that you show the cry of your heart at its deepest point in the fact that Salvation is so precious to you and a place in the eternal Kingdom of God, and the forgiveness of sin is so valuable to you that you would hold nothing back were He to ask for it.

And obviously not everybody back then was willing to do that anymore than they are willing to do that today. For example- **John 6:66** says,

"Many of His disciples walked no more with Him."

And when they left Jesus standing in the middle of the road- they all said,

"Jesus is asking way too much out of me here."

And they turned around and walked away. And so the people who follow Jesus for a while and then leave- they are the ones who are the most vocal about it all and they end up blaming Jesus for their own

refusal to follow Him. But this level of total surrender and commitment is exactly what the Call to true Salvation involves.

And this is a far cry from the typical kind of invitations to Christ that we hear of today. It isn't even remotely close. What Jesus says here isn't just daunting- it is in some ways even frightening to accept this invitation to discipleship. It is a sacrifice so great and so constant and so consuming and so demanding that it is too much for some. To give up your life, to give up your comforts, to give up your relationships, to give up the world, to give up popularity, and to choose self-sacrifice, self-denial, hostility, confrontation, rejection, but this is what true Salvation is all about.

But praise be to God- there were some who *were* willing to follow Jesus on those terms. And we met 12 of them earlier and now here in Chapter 10- we meet 70 more. And Jesus is instructing these men about how to go about and preach the Gospel in a way that will bring God Glory.

And that's the perspective that we must have in our day as well. And this is the background and the setting that gets us to **Luke 10:17**- so let's read that verse again together:

Luke 10:17

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

They returned with what? Luke says, "Joy". So Joy is the operative word here. So even though the danger of human pride is mixed up in this Passage- the main thrust here is this great Joy. And it is this great Joy that will override the pride and the arrogance. Dr. Luke tells us that the seventy returned with joy. So nobody died in this effort. They were willing. They came back and after going out in all these towns and being rejected in many places, being certainly put out of town, run off, having to give warnings, shake dust off their garments, pronounce judgment. They also had spiritual "success". They gave up their lives. They gave up their comfort, their money, their popularity. And what they got in return for that was this deep and abiding joy.

But where did this joy come from?" In the light of such a demanding Call to Salvation- where did all this joy come from? And the answer is- there were three reasons for their joy:

1. The Omnipotence of God Over Satan's Kingdom
2. The Invincibility of Christ's Protection
3. The Eternal Perseverance in Salvation

1. The Omnipotence of God Over Satan's Kingdom

Luke 10:17

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

Now this was new to these guys. Demons, subject to them? This is an overwhelming reality. Now as any student of Scripture knows- the arch angel Lucifer was created by God along with the other angels. And Lucifer was son of the morning and he may have been the worship leader of heaven- the anointed cherub, he is called. But he fell. Corrupted by pride, wanting to no longer to submit to God but to be equal with God, he led a rebellion and **The Revelation 12** says one third of all the angels fell with him and they became the demon host.

They were created by God to glorify and serve God, one third of them were thrown out of heaven and cursed to eternal damnation in a Lake of Fire forever for that rebellion. They are not redeemable. They constitute the demons. They are old. They were created around the time of the Creation of everything else so they have been operating to thwart the purposes of God since the time of their fall around the time of creation itself.

And Satan is the enemy of God, the enemy of Christ, the enemy of the Holy Spirit, the enemy of Holy Scripture, that he is the enemy of Israel, that he is the enemy of the church, that frankly, he is the enemy of all the souls of all men and that he is immensely powerful, so much so that even Michael, the archangel, didn't bring a railing accusation against him but called on God to deal with Satan. He is called the ruler of the darkness of this world. He is called the prince of the power of the air. He's called the god of this world. He's called the destroyer, the father of lies, the ultimate murderer. He has the power of death. He is called the deceiver, the slanderer and the evil one. And as I said, he's not alone in his wicked enterprise, he has ten thousands and ten thousands of demons operating with him.

And they are old. They are as old as creation. They are intelligent. They are wicked. They are deceptive. And they are supernaturally powerful. And they literally dominate the world. **1John 5:19** says that the whole unconverted world lies in the lap of the evil one. It's as if they're being suckled by Satan himself. And an eternal Lake of Fire has been prepared in which they will all burn without being consumed forever and ever and ever, along with the people who are a part of their domain.

So Biblical Evangelism then is the task of rescuing souls from their grip. Evangelism is the task of rescuing people out of the clutches of Satan, ripping them, as it were, from the lap of the evil one. It is *breaking in* to the domain of darkness, it is a rescue operation. And in order to achieve that, the powers of hell must be powerfully overthrown. The power of demons must be conquered. So Evangelism is not just convincing people by a good argument or clever phrases or cute slogans of the Truth of the Gospel and thus they believe. This is not just a human operation.

It is not just an argument about who's right. It is not just a rational debate. It is a rescue operation into the supernatural realm of darkness where all the souls of the unbelievers are under the control of demons and they are in a condition of being spiritually dead and spiritually blind. So you're dealing with people who don't have the apparatus to respond and in order to reach them, they have to be powerfully and Sovereignly awakened from the dead, they have to be given sight, that's a supernatural operation. And then the very world of Satan has to be violently overpowered so they can be rescued. So this is not a simple operation. It is a forceful assault on the forces of hell- the demons.

And Jesus delegated that kind of Power to the Apostles back in **Luke 9:11**. Jesus gave them Power and Authority over all the demons. And here in Chapter 10- Jesus gave the 70 this same Omnipotent Power. And as they went out preached- the same Power was manifest through them.

Now the key phrase here is,

"in Your name."

And that means that the demons were subject to the Power of God- the Power of Jesus Christ as God in human flesh. There was no other Power that could command demons.

Now while we do not have the Apostolic Authority that the Twelve had- we still are the instruments of the Lord by which the grip of Satan is broken off of souls. We are the soldiers who invade the kingdom of darkness and are triumphant in the rescue of souls that are held captive by Satan and his demons. The power of darkness is crushed by the Gospel that we preach.

So the seventy came back and they were literally overwhelmed by this great reality. In other words- they were going to invade the kingdom of darkness and rescue the souls of men and women. What a Calling!

And this is true for us. Think of how your life should really matter. When you go out and faithfully proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you literally invade the kingdom of darkness to rescue the souls there. And through your faithfulness to the proclamation of the Message- this very same Omnipotent Power of God flows to awaken the dead, give sight to the blind, and rescue the perishing- transferring them from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of God's dear Son.

This is what we do. So isn't that cause for great joy? Yes! Not pride; not arrogance; not self- righteousness- but absolutely Joy! To have your life matter like that? What could be better?

Making a lot of money or having nice things is fine and has some benefit in it but what has real value is being able to charge into the kingdom of darkness and rescue somebody. That's what has real and eternal value. No wonder they rejoiced. I mean, what greater joy could you have than this?

But look at Jesus' Response to their joy in **Luke 10:18:**

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

Now for many years I always thought of this statement here by Jesus as Him simply referring back to when He was in Heaven and Lucifer was cast out of Heaven due to His rebellion. And it may well be that. But in my studies as I was looking at the tense of the verb in this verse- you must notice something interesting. In the original Greek- Jesus doesn't say,

“I saw Satan fall...”

He says,

“I was watching Satan fall....”

But why would Jesus make a statement like this when it doesn't have anything to do with what the 70 just told Him? This statement is out of place if it is simply referring to the time when Satan was originally cast out of Heaven.

Now there is no doubt that satan being cast out was on Jesus' Mind when He said this- but if that was all He was talking about- He would have said,

“I saw satan cast out”

So because Jesus said “I was watching...” we must at least consider the possibility that He was also referring to the fact that He was literally watching these 70 men go out in His Name and preach the Gospel and by them doing that- it was the fulfillment of Satan's fall from Heaven.

So Jesus tells them in response to the great joy at the demons being subject to His Name by saying, "I was watching. And you guys were out there preaching and people were hearing and they were being forcefully delivered from satan's kingdom- and I was watching. And every time someone believed- satan fell. I was watching, I was a spectator- I saw you and I saw satan fall from Heaven every time a soul was saved.

So this is not talking about a one-time event like the original fall of satan. This was something that was ongoing.

You see, when you go out and present the Gospel of Jesus Christ- there might be a satanic flash as the sort of last furious protest from hell- but then it's over and that soul is rescued. And Jesus is saying to them, *"I saw all of it, guys. Only what you saw and what I saw were a little different. I saw Satan's kingdom being destroyed as far as its grip, one soul at a time."*

And verse 21 says,

"At that time, that very time, He, Jesus, rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit."

So the 70 were all rejoicing but Jesus was rejoicing with them. So why were they rejoicing? Because of God's Omnipotent Power over Satan's kingdom.

2. The Invincibility of Christ's Protection

Luke 10:19

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.

Now obviously, if you're an invader into the kingdom of darkness, the demons are not going to like you. Demons know who we are. They know our name; they know what we do; they know what we preach; and they hate us.

All of us who are Christ's- all of us who are witnesses to the Gospel are the enemies of hell and they do not like us invading their dark kingdom and rescuing souls. They do not like us being the instruments by which God does that work. They're offended by that. And they have evil intent against their enemies.

And I think it's fair to say they would like to stop us from doing that. They desperately want to stop the Work of God. They don't like those who preach the Truth- not even a little bit. They don't like those who faithfully witness concerning the Biblical Gospel. They don't like those who are evangelists. They don't like the troops that invade their kingdom. We are their enemies. And we could assume that they will do anything they can to undo us or to destroy us. So what do we say to all this? Jesus begins with one word:

"Behold..."

That is the word that is used right before a startling fact is presented. And here is the startling fact:

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.

The Sovereign Lord of the Universe has given you- perfect tense with continuing effect- which means that Jesus has *permanently* given these 70 men- the Greek word is "*exousia*" which means: *dominance or right or authority or power*. Dominance; right; power; and authority to do what?

...to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall injure you."

So even though these fallen angels who cannot ever repent and who cannot ever be forgiven and who cannot ever be saved might not like you and they might *want* to stop you but they can't.

"I, the Sovereign Lord, have given you permanently My own power and dominance that gives you the right to tread upon serpents and scorpions." Now Jesus is not talking about the literal creatures. This is metaphorical for the demons. Satan is always viewed as a serpent.

The context here is metaphoric because He describes Satan as falling like lightning. So Jesus says, "*Don't worry about them. I've given you the power to tread on them. I've given you literally authority, dominance over all the power of the enemy.*" Wow!

Now there are a lot of legends and myths about satan that cause everybody to fear him and pray special prayers and the like- but really and truly- we need to grow up and realize that Satan's not happy with us. But we shouldn't pay any attention to him. So we should have two objectives toward Satan:

- A. Pay no attention to him and continue to look at Jesus
- B. Flee from anything he's involved in

I don't say anything to satan- I never have. I'm not interested in having a conversation with the devil. I don't understand people who talk to satan and tell him to go here and go there. I have a Promise of protection from a God Who cannot lie. I'm in Christ and my Christ crushed the serpent's head and I'm triumphant in Christ.

1John 4:4

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

This magnificent Promise from Jesus covers every fear that could ever come from the forces of hell. You have authority over all the power of the enemy. The serpents and scorpions are the demons and THE enemy is Satan and we have nothing to fear from any of them...any of them, nothing. Nothing shall injure you, *adikeo* in the Greek, nothing shall harm you or hurt you. They can do nothing to hurt you, nothing to harm you...nothing. They can't come and live in you. They can't kill you without getting God's Permission first- and if God gives satan permission to kill you- it will be for God's Glory to further God's Plan- not hinder it.

We must understand that the entire Book of Job was written to teach us that Satan is a tool for God to use to refine us into the Image and Likeness of Jesus. So the only thing that demons can do to genuinely saved people is that which God will use for our spiritual growth and His Glory.

3. The Eternal Perseverance in Salvation

Luke 10:20

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

Here again is the area where we need to keep our pride in check. When we have victory over satan- when we preach the Gospel and people are saved and saved people are edified and God is glorified- Jesus tells us here that we are not to rejoice in that.

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

And what Jesus means by that phrase is don't limit your joy to the fact that these evil spirits are subject to you. Oh, that's reason for joy, and I rejoice with you, and I was thrilled to see Satan going down over and over like flashes of lightning. But don't limit your joy to that- because that's just temporal. That's only going to happen here in this life. Go beyond that and rejoice over the last part of verse 20:

... rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.

So don't just rejoice that you have the Power of God over satan in this life- but rejoice all the more that you're going to enjoy the blessing of God forever in Heaven.

And the fact that Jesus talks about our names being recorded in Heaven is just another way of saying that our souls are off limits to the devil and all his fallen angels. So our names are written in Heaven in the sense that satan cannot touch our souls and he cannot remove our names from God's Nook of Life. And that is infinitely more important than simply that satan is subject to us down here.

So Jesus is telling them- "I know you're happy about the power over Satan, but let me tell you a cause for even greater joy- your names are written in heaven".

Now the Greek word for written is *egraphe*, recorded; recorded permanently in Heaven. Jesus is saying you're the real deal. You're the true disciple. You're the genuinely converted. You came and God gave you the faith to trust in Me and the desire to embrace Me, and I'm telling you, your names are written in Heaven. And you should rejoice over that- because that's the greatest joy.

Every triumph that we have over Satan are temporary- they are only for this life. So that could never be the supreme joy. That's not the most wondrous reality of our Salvation. The most wondrous reality is that our names are recorded in Heaven. So whatever self-denial, whatever cross bearing, whatever submission is required of us- whatever turning away from the world and what it offers- the ultimate prize is ours- to be enrolled in the Book of Life.

So God has a Book and all the citizens of Heaven have their name there. And He says our names are there because we are His true disciples. And we should rejoice in that.

Let's pray.