

Bible Study Guide: Week of 6-27-2022

1. Read through the passage below
2. Read my notes and commentary
3. Read the questions at the end and ponder or discuss with others

Pastor Andrew

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” ¹⁸He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

Our Gospel lesson this week picks up exactly where our lesson last week left off. There, Jesus had “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” On the way, he and the disciples experienced rejection in a Samaritan village. Then, on the road, Jesus interacted with three would-be followers who made various excuses as to why they could not follow him. After these fair-weather disciples were admonished and either decided to follow Jesus or abandoned their journey, Jesus turned to seventy others who were to go as forerunners of Jesus’ ministry and as ambassadors of the good news Jesus came to bring.

²He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Jesus sets the tone for their mission by comparing it to harvest time. Harvest was one of the busiest and most rushed time periods of the year in the ancient world. There was a short window of opportunity between the ripening of the crops and the rotting of the crops. Time was of the essence to get as much of the yield as possible before the rest spoiled. Here, Jesus’ metaphor of “harvest” explains his instructions to the seventy. They are to take nothing extraneous and they are not even to take time to greet others on the journey. Time is of the essence. What is Jesus’ hurry? His face is set toward Jerusalem, remember. He knows that his time of trial is drawing near and there is a sense of urgency and momentum propelling the narrative forward at this point in the gospel.

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The instructions to the disciples here show that much trust and reliance on others is going to be required of them. They are to freely share the gifts of Jesus—peace, healing, the restoration of the Kingdom, and the good news. In turn, they are to rely on the hospitality of strangers who receive them with open minds and hearts.

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The shaking off of dust from the feet originated as a Jewish custom of shaking off dust when returning to Jerusalem from a neighboring Gentile community. In that case, it was a way to signify separation from the gentile community one had entered and to show proper reverence during one’s return to the Jewish city of Jerusalem. In this case and elsewhere in Luke/Acts, it seems to be a ritual that Jesus’ followers use to signify separation from Jewish villages that do not receive the message of the gospel.

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The seventy rejoice at the power they have been able to channel to overcome even demons in Jesus’ name. Jesus explains to them that the evil one is already defeated, hence his words about witnessing Satan falling from heaven. The power Jesus has shared with his followers is greater than all evil that exists, yet Jesus urges them not to rejoice in their power, but rather in God’s salvation.

Discussion/Reflection Questions:

- 1. Why do you think Jesus commands the 70 to take so little with them?**
- 2. What do you think it means when Jesus says that one’s peace will return to them if nobody receives it?**
- 3. How do you think we can apply the mission of the 70 to our own lives today?**