

INTRODUCTION: As we continue our Summer of Discipleship, it is important to recognize that proclaiming the gospel is a vital part of what we do. Today, we will see that in order to be proclaimers of the word, we need THE LORD'S PROMPTING, THE LORD'S PROVISION, THE LORD'S PROMULGATION, and THE LORD'S POWER.

### THE LORD'S PROMPTING

- (10:1) After this, the Lord appointed 70 others, and He sent them ahead of Him in pairs to every town and place where He Himself was about to go.
  - This is only mentioned in Luke; Early church tradition has Luke as one of the 70.
  - Significance of the 70
    - Numbers 11:16-17: The Lord answered Moses, "Bring Me 70 men from Israel known to you as elders and officers of the people. Take them to the tent of meeting and have them stand there with you. Then I will come down there and speak with you there. I will take some of the Spirit who is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you bear the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it by yourself.
    - There were also seventy in the Sanhedrin.
    - There were thought to be 70 nations.
  - They went ahead of Christ to prepare the way for Him.
- (10:2) He told them: "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.

- (Jn 4:35-38) Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields, for they are ready for harvest. The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For in this case, the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you didn't labor for, and you have benefited from their labor."
- The picture here is urgent. What happens to a great crop if you don't go out and harvest it?
- (Group 1 Crew): Forgive Me "Lord, though I walk through the valley of shadow of death, I'm not scared cause you're holding my breath. I only fear that I don't have enough time left to tell the world that there's no time left."
- (10:3) Now go; I'm sending you out like lambs among wolves.
  - The Lord is the one doing the sending, therefore, you have no need to fear being a lamb among wolves. Remember that the Lamb of God came among the wolves, and He already won the victory!

## THE LORD'S PROVISION

- (10:4) Don't carry a money-bag, traveling bag, or sandals; don't greet anyone along the road.
  - Don't get so bogged down with the things of the world that prevent you from proclaiming the Word. Let the Lord show you His provision.
  - Don't greet: Jewish greetings were very long and drawn out, and dedicating time to this would have used up time that they had for their mission.
- (10:5-8) Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household. If a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they offer, for the worker is worthy of his wages. Don't be moving from

house to house. When you enter any town, and they welcome you, eat the things set before you.

- Some practical things for the mission that they were on.

#### THE LORD'S PROMULGATION (Direction)

- (10:9-11) Heal the sick who are there, and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.' When you enter any town, and they don't welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'We are wiping off as a witness against you even the dust of your town that clings to our feet. Know this for certain: The kingdom of God has come near.'
  - The bottom line is that we are announcing the Kingdom. That is the mission that we have been given. We do not need to get upset if they reject the Kingdom!
  - (Ezek. 3:18-19) If I say to the wicked person, 'You will surely die,' but you do not warn him—you don't speak out to warn him about his wicked way in order to save his life—that wicked person will die for his iniquity. Yet I will hold you responsible for his blood. But if you warn a wicked person and he does not turn from his wickedness or his wicked way, he will die for his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.
  - (Msgr. Charles Pope) Yes, we are to be serene and secure in the truth of the message and not consumed with how people react. We need not be strident or argumentative, we don't have to raise our voices, we don't need to be fearful, angry, or resentful. All we need to do is to preach the truth serenely and leave the judgment up to God.
- (10:12-15) I tell you on that day, it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have

repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will go down to Hades!

- Jesus is talking about the towns who heard and rejected, compared to those who didn't hear.
- (10:16) Whoever listens to you listens to Me. Whoever rejects you rejects Me. And whoever rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.
  - The Lord knows that we will face opposition, rejection, and hatred. These are not directed to us, but to the Lord who sent us.

### THE LORD'S POWER

- (10:17-19) The Seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name." He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a lightning flash. Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing will ever harm you."
  - (Spurgeon) "Not one of the lambs had been eaten by the wolves."
  - Remember that the power is the Lord's, not ours.
- (10:20) However, don't rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
  - We are to be joyful believers!
  - Remember that we are sinners saved by grace, and not anything that we did.

### SO WHAT?

- If we are to be followers of Christ, we are also to be proclaimers of His truth to the perishing. He commands that we do this, He provides the message, and He supplies the power. All we have to do is obey!
- Are you a follower of Christ? If yes, tell someone else. If not, consider becoming a follower of Christ today!