

Jesus Is Coming

Luke 10:1-7

Every person wants purpose and fulfillment. Some have it; others don't. Unfortunately, fulfillment can only come from doing what the Designer intended. Luke here records an incident that is not mentioned by the other gospel writers. He describes our Lord's *commission* of 70 unnamed disciples. 70 is a number that stands for "complete." Moses appointed 70 elders to represent all Israel in the Old Covenant (Num. 11:16), and here God sends 70 people out on a mission; representing God's purpose for you and for me.

I. Christ sends us on a mission - "the Lord appointed seventy ... and sent them... (v. 10).

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is *to bring peace with God to those whom you contact*. Vs. 5-6 state the mission; "Peace to this house. **If a son of peace is there**, your peace will rest on him." Lest you take this lightly, I remind you that *peace with God* is the greatest treasure anyone can have. Peace with God brings *the peace of God*. "*Be anxious for nothing...but let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which passes all understanding will fill your soul*" (Phil. 4:6-7). Those who don't go for peace are those who usually don't know the peace. If you taste it you share it.

II. Christ gives us an encouraging message before the mission - "And He was saying to them" (vs. 2-7).

Before we look at the words of encouragement that Christ gives, let's look at a remarkable phrase.

"He sent them in pairs ahead to every city and place *where He Himself was going to come*" (v.1).

You can be assured that if you accept the mission and go, Christ will follow up with a visit Himself.

1. **This message contains a caution** – "I send you out as a lamb among wolves" (vs. 3). The world is a cruel place where there will be those who wish to destroy you – "Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves." The wisest and calmest person in the room ought to be a Christ follower.
2. **This message contains some commands** - these come in the form of practical instruction (vs. 4).
 - a. Carry no money belt.
 - b. Carry no bag.
 - c. Don't take an extra pair of shoes.
 - d. Don't greet others on the way.

Why these commands? It seems that Jesus was pressing upon us the importance of the mission. Elisha's told Gehazi in II Kings 4:29 the same thing. When times are critical, there's no small talk. Later on, after the disciples accomplished their mission, Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered." (Luke 22:35).

3. **This message contains some comfort** – "if the son of peace is there... your peace shall rest on him" (v. 6). No human being is responsible for how others receive the gospel – that's the Spirit's work; but it seems Christ will always come to the house of the gospel hearer (II Corinthians 2:16).

III. Christ tells us of a common mistake among missional people – "Do not keep moving" (v. 7).

The last verse of our text contains some great wisdom and advice for all people in gospel ministry.

"Stay in that house" - where the sons of peace are, and where the peace of God rests.

"Eating and drinking what they give you" – literally, "of that which is theirs."

"For the laborer is worthy of his wages" – payment for gospel work is a debt, not a gratuity.

"Do not keep moving from house to house" – in other words, be content where God has placed you.

The Jews said: "He that goes from house to house will lose his shirt, and he that goes from place to place his life." Godliness is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment (I Tim. 6:6).