

**Following Jesus to the Cross - 2**  
**Go in God's Strength and with God's Message**  
**Luke 10:1-3;17-20**

Series: Following Jesus to the Cross

Even when rejected (Samaria), you must still love them - came to save, not judge

There is a cost to following Jesus - give up everything

There are responsibilities - preach the kingdom of God

**Lu 10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.**

Usually only think of "the twelve" - there were far more. 1 Cor. 15:6 says that Jesus appeared to 500

"brothers" - serious followers of Christ. Acts 1:15, 120 sent to Jerusalem

Even though Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem for the last time, He would not stop ministering.

He sent out 72 - to do what? To prepare the towns and villages that Jesus planned to visit.

*Interesting! - sent out people to prepare the way. This seems to be a strategy.*

*Ex. John the Baptist: John 1:23 John replied, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"*

*Sending of the 72 - preparing the way for Jesus*

*Great Commission - "Go, make disciples..." - Do we see a pattern here?*

Is it hard to accept Christ? No

*Ro 10:9 If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

*11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."*

*12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,*

*13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Isn't that wonderful. See how easy it would be if they would just come to church and do that!

*\* 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

How beautiful are our feet? Maybe we should have a foot beauty pageant on the platform.

Ex. My Grandmother remarked on my father's feet as he was sitting on the platform waiting to preach:

"Aren't his feet graceful?" She was proud of her Son the missionary.

If Jesus wanted His followers/disciples to go out before Him to prepare the way when He was there physically with them, how much more does He need us to prepare the way for His spiritual presence to move among them?

Again, He was sending them out into the towns and villages. Folks, people don't know they need a Savior. Why would they come to the church looking for one? It would only be if someone has gone out and talked to them and let them know who the Savior is and what He can do for them.

Interesting side note - Jesus sent out 72 - According to Genesis 10, this was traditionally the number of nations in the world. - Some feel that symbolically, Jesus was showing that one day, all nations would hear the Gospel of Christ - *"This Gospel will be preached to all nations, and then the end will come."*

Yeah but Pastor - if Jesus sent them out, He knew how to pick the best of the best with special gifts. No, they were ordinary people like you and me.

These 72 were no more qualified than others, not better educated, not the “cream of the crop.”

What equipped the seventy-two for this mission was their awareness of Jesus’ power and their vision to reach all the people. We as Christians should dedicate our skills to God’s kingdom, but we should also be equipped with His power and have a clear vision of what He wants us to do.

They went in obedience, but most important, they were going in\* God’s strength and with God’s message. When you “go out”—to build schools, help with kids’ camp, or whatever—go in prayer, trusting God for strength, to help people find their Savior.

This must be an integral part of God’s Vision for our church. As we go out, we must go out in God’s strength and with God’s message!

**\* 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.**

Jesus sent out 36 pairs with His message to reach many towns and villages that He had not yet been able to visit. Jesus compared His work to the harvest - the gathering of new believers into His kingdom.

The problem - to have a harvest, you must have workers.

So many people need to hear the message (*the harvest is plentiful*)

\*Jesus has found so few workers willing to go out into the field and gather it in.

What happens if a harvest is not gathered? - It withers and dies on the stalk.

If Jesus says that the harvest is plentiful - what does that mean?

1. Means that Jesus has already done the planting and watering - hearts already prepared
2. In order to have another harvest down the road, more planting and watering must be done.

Jesus sent out 72 (seems like a lot), he told them to *ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field*. These laborers should pray for more laborers—pray for more people to be willing to work in the harvest.

It’s not just any field we’re supposed to go into. It’s His harvest field. There are people in whose lives Jesus has already been working.

We need to pray for two things:

1. More workers - who are the workers? His disciples (He said to His disciples, “Go & make disciples

“In Christian service, there is no unemployment. God has work enough for everyone. No believer should sit back and watch others work because the harvest is great.”

2. Show us His field - where does He want us to go to and gather.

There are many things we can do and look busy for God. Jesus said, *Ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His field*. The field He has been working and preparing.

**\* 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.** (What’s that all about?)

Illust:

Jack was out jogging one day and as he passed a cliff, he got too close and fell. Grabbing hold of a branch he was stranded. No way up and certainly no way down. He began to scream, “Hello up there can anyone hear me.” He yelled for hours and was about to give up when he heard a voice.

“Jack, Can you hear me?”

“Yes, Yes, I can hear you. I’m down here.”

“I can see you, Jack, are you alright?”

“Yes, but...who are you and where are you?”

“I am the Lord Jack, I am everywhere.”

“The Lord? You mean God?”

“That’s me.”

“God, help me, I promise that if you get me down from here, I’ll stop sinning. I’ll be a really good person and serve you for the rest of my life.”

“Easy on the promises, Jack. First let’s get you down, then we can discuss those.”

“I’ll do anything, Lord, just tell me what to do, okay?”

“Okay, let go of the branch.”

“What?”

“I said, let go of the branch. Just trust me, let go.”

PAUSE

“Hello, Hello, is there anybody else up there?”

Jesus said: *I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.*

Our first reaction? “Hello, is there anybody else up there?”

What do we notice first? - \* *“Lambs among wolves.”* Not a pretty picture. Tearing, mayhem, blood, death  
Elicits *concern, fear, terror*

Produces *inactivity, excuses, procrastination*

Satan loves it. That’s what he wants us to focus on. He wants us to be inactive in the harvest field

He doesn’t mind us being very active in the church - the more active the better - won’t be in field.

\* Most important part of verse - “I am sending you.”

\* It changes the whole dynamics of the situation

“Go...I am with you always.”

“Go - trust Me.”

Ex. David and Goliath;

Gideon & 32,000 men whittled down 300 against Midianites - Jg 7

(Jump down to verse 17)

**\* Lu 10:17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."**

Men came back excited - they were “pumped”

They had a lot of success - *even the demons submit*” - means they did many other things also

They assumed demons would have been the hardest - after all Satan is super-strong, right?

**18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**

Jesus was rejoicing with them. Vs 21 says that Jesus was *full of joy*

1. Jesus was there when Satan was first thrown out of heaven

2. Jesus would be there at the resurrection to see Satan defeated

Satan is a defeated enemy, therefore all his demons are defeated and powerless against Christ

3. As the disciples went out in obedience, Jesus saw Satan defeated in the harvest field

The reason? Verse 19

**19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.**

“Didn’t I tell you to trust me?”

Can we be assured of the same authority? Absolutely.

**20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."**

In the middle of this celebration, however, Jesus issued a strong warning: Don't take pride in what you have done or what God has done through you. Instead, rejoice in the fact that God has chosen you and has given you eternal life.

We are to rejoice in what is accomplished, but as we rejoice we are to \* Go in His Name and with His Wisdom.

Going in His name means that we are going in His authority and all that goes with it.

Going in His wisdom means that we have prayed about it and we have heard from God.

We are to go into His field.

Pray that God will send forth workers into His harvest field.