

The Mission of the Seventy (10:1-12)

In preparing many villages for Jesus' preaching, the Lord sent out seventy men, two by two, to announce His coming. This was done in preparation for another preaching tour in Galilee. As He sent them forth, He said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest" (10:2).

He instructed them concerning the dangers of their mission, knowing the opposition of the Pharisees and Sadducees to His work (10:3). Because of the urgency of their mission, they were not allowed to take the normal provisions for travel (10:4-5).

Rather, they were to stay with whomever invited them into their homes. They were to understand that the provisions which they received from their hosts were the rewards of their labor (10:7). Jesus did not make them beggars.

They were to announce the coming of the kingdom of God (10:9) and heal the sick. Should a city not receive their message, they were to depart from it and turn to another more receptive village. They were to wipe off the dust which clung to their feet as a testimony to their rejection of Jesus' message.

Woe to Impenitent Cities (10:12-16)

Jesus then pronounced a woe upon those cities that refused the message of the seventy. He said that it would be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for these cities because of how many miracles they had seen in calling them to repentance. Some of the cities which rejected Jesus were then

The Mission of the Seventy and the Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10

listed as under divine condemnation: Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum.

The rejection of one sent out by Jesus is not merely a rejection of the man sent. Rather, it is a rejection of Jesus who sent them and God who sent Jesus (10:16).

ful work. They had seen devils cast out in the name of Jesus (10:17). Their casting out devils demonstrated their faith even as the disciples' inability to cast out the unclean spirit in 9:37-42 demonstrated an absence of faith. Noting their faith, Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (10:18).



Jesus preached in Chorazin and so did His disciples. This photo shows the interior of the synagogue at Chorazin. This synagogue has a "seat of Moses" (Matt. 23:2), a place where the Rabbi would sit during worship. Photo courtesy of HolylandPhotos.org.

The Return of the Seventy (10:17-20)

When the seventy returned, they were rejoicing in their success-

This is the victory of faith. Then Jesus gave them power over all the works of the devil, particularly giving them miraculous powers. He cautioned them not to rejoice that

they could work miracles, but in the fact that their names were written in heaven (10:20).

Jesus' Rejoicing (10:21-24)

Upon this occasion, Jesus "rejoiced in the spirit," lifting His prayer to the Father. He thanked God for revealing His word, not to the wise and prudent, but to the babes (cf. 1 Cor. 1:26-31). Then He stated that God had committed to Him all things (pertaining to the

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (10:25-37)

A lawyer (of the law of Moses) came to Jesus tempting Him with this question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Directing him to the law of Moses, Jesus asked him what he read. The man replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all they heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all they mind; and thy neighbor as thyself" (10:27). Jesus com-

passed by on the other side without helping. After sometime, a Samaritan, considered by Jews to be a "dog" and unclean, came where he was and ministered to his needs. He "doctored" his wounds, set him on his beast and took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he paid for his room and instructed the innkeeper to take care of him, telling him that he would pay his bill on his next trip through the area.

Having finished the story, Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which now of these three . . . was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?" The lawyer replied, "He that shewed mercy on him."

Again Jesus said, "Go and do thou likewise." Notice that "the neighbor" is the Samaritan—the one who helped his fellow man who was in need.

Visiting Mary and Martha (10:38-42)

While visiting in Bethany, Jesus was invited to the home of Mary and Martha. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening to every word he taught. Martha was busy serving the needs of her guests. Soon she asked Jesus, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me." Rather than sending Mary to help, Jesus told Martha, "Thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

How Much Did He Spend?

The Good Samaritan treated the wounds of the injured man. Did you ever stop to think how much that cost him? Consider the following:

- **It cost his time. He stopped to help. He bandaged his wounds and took time to help him as much as he could.**
- **It cost him his convenience. Prior to finding the injured man, he was riding the donkey. After treating him, he walked and the injured man rode the donkey.**
- **It cost him money. He paid the innkeeper two denarii, two days' wages. Using \$100 per day for a days' wages, he spent \$200 and offered to pay more later should it be required.**

Would you be willing to be a Good Samaritan if you knew it would cost you this much?

revelation of His will) and no one could know them except those to whom He revealed them. Only in this way could men come to know the Father.

Turning to the seventy, Jesus told them how privileged they were to be living in the days when the things foretold by the prophets were being fulfilled. Many others had studied the prophecies and desired to know and understand what they were now seeing (cf. 1 Pet. 1:10-12).

mended his answer and admonished him to obey it. In an effort to justify himself, the lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

In response, Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan. A man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho was attacked by thieves and left for dead. Soon a priest came, but when he saw him, he walked by without helping him. Later a Levite, an assistant to the priest who served in the Temple,

Questions

1. Why might Jesus have sent the seventy in pairs (v. 1)? _____

2. Is the harvest always “great” as in 10:2? _____
3. What is the meaning of v. 3? _____

4. What did Paul say about Luke’s gospel (10:7) in 1 Timothy 5:8? _____
5. Is a preacher’s salary charity (10:7)? _____
6. What is one’s obligation to those who reject the gospel (10:10-11)? _____

7. Why were the cities which saw Jesus given a harsher judgment(10:12-15)? _____

8. Do these verses teach “degrees of punishment” in hell? _____
9. What does a rejection of a gospel preacher mean (v. 16)? _____

10. In light of 9:37-42, why was Jesus so pleased with the mission of the seventy (10:17-20)? _____

11. What two reasons for rejoicing are compared in 10:19-20 and which should be greater? _____

12. For what did Jesus give thanks in 10:21? _____
13. What is said about Jesus in 10:22? _____
14. Why were the seventy blessed in 10:23-24? _____

15. What shows the heart of the lawyer who questioned Jesus (10:25f)? _____

16. What was the answer to the lawyer’s question (10:27)? _____

17. Should the same answer be given to the same question today? _____

18. Who is the neighbor in the parable of the Good Samaritan? _____
19. What impact would Jesus’ making a Samaritan the hero of His parable have on Jews? _____

20. What was wrong with Martha's anxiety in 10:41? _____

21. What was right with Mary's decision? _____

Matching

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| ___ 1. Luke 10:7 | a. Reveals the Father to others |
| ___ 2. Rejection of one Jesus sent | b. Hated by Jews |
| ___ 3. Knows the Father | c. Is rejection of God who sent Jesus |
| ___ 4. Samaritan | d. Used as a medicine |
| ___ 5. Wine | e. Called Scripture in 1 Timothy 5:18 |

True or False?

- ___ 1. The regulations for the seventy when traveling are still binding on all preachers.
- ___ 2. One should give up trying to teach some people.
- ___ 3. Rejection of a preacher of the gospel is rejection of God.
- ___ 4. Having the ability to perform miracles is the greatest reason to rejoice in the Lord.
- ___ 5. The lawyer who questioned Jesus was not honest.