

week 3 : *Jesus loves missions*

Scripture to Read

Luke 10:1-24

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2 And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. 5 Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 11 ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this: that the kingdom of God has come near.’ 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

13 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

16 “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power

of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 22 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.”

Summary of Luke 10:1-24

Jesus sends 72 of his followers on a mission of healing and gospel proclamation as a vanguard to prepare the way through Samaria for him. Terrible punishments await those who reject. Having completed their mission, the 72 are filled with joy at seeing the kingdom of God advance and people being set free from their bondage to demonic oppression. Jesus redirects their joy toward their standing with God and expresses his joy due to God's having revealed the presence of the kingdom and Satan's fall to little children—that is, to the disciples.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” [Luke 10:2]

Questions for Personal Study and/or Group Discussion

- What do you think Jesus means when he says, “I am sending you at lambs in the midst of wolves”?
- What is mission on which Jesus sends the 72? How is it similar to our mission as a church? Think about FPC’s vision statement

in light of your answer: *a gospel-driven church pursuing God, his ways and people.*

- What instructions does Jesus give with regards to the likelihood that the 72 will not be welcomed and heard?
- In v.10-16 Jesus lets loose with a fierce message of judgment on men and women who reject the good news of “the kingdom of God come near to you.” What might be the significance of the fact that when Jesus “names names,” he mentions Galilean, not Samaritan, towns? *NOTE: Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum were town in which Jesus spent most of three years of ministry.*
- Contrast the reasons why the 72 are rejoicing with the reasons why Jesus says he is rejoicing. What gets you excited about working for the kingdom of God? What ought to get you excited about working for the kingdom of God?
- How should we respond when we are rejected by people on account of the gospel? Why do you think Jesus allows us to function as “inside participants” in his saving work of reaching people? What is *your* next step in being involved in reaching people for Christ? Remember that our REACHING ministry in FPC involves: (1) Making room for outsiders through long-term relationships and multiple exposures to the Gospel and (2) committing ourselves to spend and be spent in local outreach, church planting and world missions.

Tips for Parents with Young Children

Monday: Spend a few minutes remembering anything you can from Sunday’s sermon by Jack Chinchen from Joshua 14. How might “Go for the Giants” be applied in the life of your family? Remember that you can download FPC sermons from www.fpckosciusko.org or by free subscription from iTunes. They are usually posted by Monday evening.

Tuesday: Read Luke 10:1-12. Ask your child to describe the process of picking crops (v.2). Explain how this applies to our

mission as Christians. Ask your child why Jesus might have sent out his servants in pairs (e.g., mutual support and help). Why is it good news that the kingdom of God has come near to us?

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church. Remember next week’s International Dinner and Prayer Time for the World Missions Conference.

Thursday: Read v.17-24 together. Children want to be safe and happy. Talk about how safe God’s messengers are as they do what God calls them to do. Talk about how happy it makes Jesus to reveal his truth and grace to us. Help your child think about the ways that God keeps them safe and happy. Challenge them to think about what makes Jesus happy as well.

Friday: Pray together that the Lord would send out more laborers into his harvest field. Mention particular pastors and missionaries you know by name and thank God for sending them.

Saturday: Quiz your children on Catechism questions or Bible memory verses they are learning. Pray for Phillip and Grant, who are preaching tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.

Notes and thoughts...

Is it 70 or 72? Many very old and reliable Greek manuscripts have “seventy-two,” while many other old and reliable manuscripts have “seventy,” and all interpreters agree that it is difficult to decide about which number was in the original of Luke’s Gospel. Most modern translations have decided in favor

of “seventy-two,” based on basic principles for determining manuscript readings. In any case, no doctrinal issue is at stake, and the number may have symbolic significance representing the number of nations in the list we find in Genesis 10. Sending them out two-by-two fulfills the OT requirement for two witnesses (Deut. 17:6; 19:15).

Contrasts: Think about Luke 9:51-62. In that passage, Jesus speaks to three would-be disciples who turn into drop-outs. Following Jesus doesn’t take place on our terms. The three drop-outs are replaced in 10:1-24 by a contrasting larger group who display immediate and enthusiastic obedience.