

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Rejoicing in the Success of Service

Luke 10: 17-24

After going into all the towns that Jesus had assigned, the seventy returned and report the things they witnessed and experienced. Notice how Jesus, in His training of the disciples, prepares them for a mission, then He assigns specific tasks, and upon completion He reviews what they have seen and learned. In this case, the same experience of the twelve in the first mission is experienced by the even greater group of the seventy. This builds expectation and confidence in what can be accomplished in the name of Jesus.

The Seventy Returned With Joy!

I. Even the Demons are Subject to Us in Your Name! (vv.17-20)

- A. The disciples are most enamored by the fact that demons obey them
- B. Jesus shares His vision of Satan falling from heaven as they went forth
 - 1. What does this signify and what does Jesus mean by this vision?
 - 2. Where is Satan at this moment? Where was he at that moment?
 - 3. When did Satan fall, and when did/does he fall from heaven?
- C. What does Jesus mean by v.19? What are we to understand about this promise and how is this applied in our life and in our mission today? Do Christian workers get injured by the enemy?
 - 1. The problem of faith & the shortsightedness of Western enlightenment
 - 2. The question of what is meant by "injure"
 - 3. The distinction between direct Satanic opposition & persecution
- D. Striking the balance: it is very "heady" to have demons obey your commands; it is vastly more important to know that your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life with the Father!

II. The Amazing Privilege of Spiritual Understanding within Our Reach! (vv.21-24)

- A. Spiritual understanding is not dependent on formal education, human wisdom, or even IQ.
- B. The anointing to proclaim the truth in Jesus' name and even to be an instrument in miracles of healing and deliverance is available even to "infants" who believe wholeheartedly in Him and the power of His name.
- C. The Son reveals the Father and the truths of spiritual realities to whomever He wishes, He alone has the power to give divine insight into spiritual revelation.
- D. The disciples, and we, by extension, have the amazing joy of living in the advent of the Kingdom and the time after the Cross, times which many in the Old Testament era longed to see but died before His coming. Three fourths of the Bible point to the times in which we live as a most blessed time when the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light!

What excites you the most about being a Christian? Have you taken advantage of your scholarship to acquire your Ph.D. in spiritual understanding? Have you come humbly, but boldly, to the Author and Finisher of our faith, and the great Breath of the Word of God and asked Him to teach you His ways? Much intellectual knowledge and many facts can be learned in a seminary, but a true understanding of what it all really means and of the ways of God can only be learned with the deepest humility and childlike wonder at the feet of Jesus, and best of all, it is accessible to any who will come.

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them."

Luke 10: 17-24 NASB

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read James 1: 22-25 and James 2: 14-26. If we are saved by grace through faith alone, why does James put so much emphasis on doing good deeds in these passages? What does he mean by, "faith without deeds is dead."?
2. What's the benefit of being a wise builder according to Matthew 7: 24-29?
3. Put these two answers together with John 17: 1-3 and explain how doing the will of God enables you to know Him. Think of several attributes of God that you have recently experienced because of putting the Word into practice. Be prepared to share these testimonies with your small group.
4. In Luke 10: 21 it says that Jesus was full of joy through the Holy Spirit. Have you ever felt this way? Should this be a normal, ongoing experience of the Christian life? Why or why not?

NOTES

crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments: "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

1 Corinthians 2: 1-16 NIV

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