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DATE: JULY 30, 2023

Strategizing for Effective Gospel Proclamation Luke 10:1-16

Review

Jesus clarifies that in God's Kingdom...

- ...discipleship guarantees fellowship with Jesus, not earthly comfort. (Luke 9:57-58)
- ..."gospeling" is a primary feature, not a casual add-on. (Luke 9:59-60)
- ...citizenship is embraced whole-heartedly, not tentatively. (Luke 9:61-62)

The urgency of Jesus' mission requires a multiplication of his ministry. (vv. 1-2)

Luke 10:1 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.

Messengers of the Kingdom recognize their vulnerability in a hostile environment. (vv. 3-4)

Luke 10:3 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.

The message of the Kingdom inevitably divides people based on two responses: (vv. 5-15)

Response 1: Acceptance brings peace (vv. 5-9)

Luke 10:5 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.'

Response 2: Rejection brings judgment (vv. 10-15)

Luke 10:10 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.

Rejection of God the Son is rejection of God the Father. (v. 16)

Luke 10:16 "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."

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." **18** This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5:22 "For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, **23** that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him."

Reflection/Discussion

- 1. Jesus recognized the urgency of his unique situation and strategized accordingly. Develop a personal strategy to maximize your impact for the gospel.
 - Identify where God has placed you in terms of the people you have influence with.
 - Brainstorm practical ways you can display the legitimacy and power of the gospel to those people in ways that will benefit their lives (generosity, patience, self-sacrificing love, etc.).
 - Seek out support from fellow believers (at work, neighborhood, small group, etc.)
 - Pray that God would open up opportunities for you to share about the kingship of Jesus and how he has changed your life.

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