

## “The 70”

### Luke 10:1-16

Jan. 22, 2023

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- 2 And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.
- 3 "Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.
- 4 "Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way.
- 5 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.'
- 6 "If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.
- 7 "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.
- 8 "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you;

#### Eccl 4:9-10

- 9 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.
- 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

#### Deut 19:15

- 15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

#### Rev 11:3

- 3 "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

- Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:2+)
- Judas and Silas (Acts 15:27+)
- Barnabas took Mark (Acts 15:39-40+),
- Paul took Silas (Acts 15:39-40+),
- Timothy and Erastus (Acts 19:22+)
- Luther & Melancthon;
- John & Charles Wesley;
- Moody & Sankey
- Billy Graham & Cliff Barrows +

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#### 10 PRINCIPLES OF EVANGELISM

##### 1. Go with someone else.

70 were chosen.

Why?

- It is the number of elders that Moses appointed over Israel (Ex. 24:1; Num. 11:24,25)
- It is the number of the nations of the world listed in Genesis 10 that came from Noah's sons.
- 35 pairs here.** For support, encouragement, companionship, accountability, and assistance in evangelism.
- "Lone Rangers" have a harder task.

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- Their job was to pave the way for the King.
- Many cities, towns, and villages. Jesus wanted to reach them all with the gospel. Huge task. Evangelism is always urgent. The cross is just months away.



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- II. Pray.**
- There is so much to be done at harvest.
  - Few who are available to work.
  - Therefore pray for God to raise up people who are willing to work in the harvest.
  - This is His harvest.
  - Notice He doesn't say to pray for the unsaved. Should we? YES! But here the emphasis is on the need for believers to get into action.

**John 17:23**

23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

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"behold" – like a divine highlighter. For emphasis, to get our attention.

**III. Expect opposition.**

- Government
- Courts
- Religious systems
- False teachers
- Haters of God
- Family

**1 Peter 4:12-13**

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

**Matt 10:16-17**

16 "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

- Be careful.
- Make wise decisions.
- Don't be naive
- Don't get into unnecessary trouble.
- Don't provoke persecution.

**3** "Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

**Acts 20:29**

29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

- **Note:** Lambs don't have a chance against wolves. Your trust and reliance is on God.

"God wants a thing done; moves a believer to pray that it may be done; & then God does it in answer to that prayer."

- Evan Roberts

**4** "Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way."

**IV. God will provide what you need.**

- Same instructions as were given to the 12.
- God will take care of them. Later they were told to take these things with them. They were learning God's provision for them.

"**greet no one** . . ." Greet, in that culture, meant to sit down, have a meal together, stay with somebody in their house, build a friendship.

- Don't waste time with the formalities of a greeting. You are on a mission. Harvest can't wait. "No time to be talking on your cell phone" kind of mentality.

- But what about?? Refer to last week – no bed, no customs, no family first.

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**7** "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.

**V. Look for those who are open to the gospel.**

- Start a conversation and see what response you get.

**Matt 7:6**

**6** "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

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- Talking about peace was a way to break the ice.

**Num 6:24-26**

**24** The Lord bless you, and keep you;

**25** The Lord make His face shine on you,

And be gracious to you;

**26** The Lord lift up His countenance on you,

And give you peace.'

- If they are open to the gospel – stay.

- If they are closed to the gospel – leave.

- Don't offend the host – eat and drink what they offer.

- Don't feel bad for taking it.

**1 Cor 9:14**

**14** So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

- Be content where you are. Don't keep moving to find a better place.

**Luke 10:1-16**

**8** "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

**10** "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say,

**11** "Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near."

**12** "I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city.

**13** "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

**14** "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you.

**15** "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades!

**16** "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

**8** "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you;

**9** and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

**VI. Humility and a servant's heart will open doors for the gospel.**

- We move from houses to cities. Look at the big picture. Some cities are more receptive than others. Cities have degrees of evil, wickedness, and sinfulness.

"eat" - Walk in humility before people. Accept them where they are.

"heal" - Serve people and their needs.

## Heb 2:3-4

3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

• “The Great Physician had 70 interns making house calls.”

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“eat” - Walk in humility before people. Accept them where they are.

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• Then it is time to share the gospel.

• Make sure it is a Christ-centered gospel.

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**VII. Let people know how serious it is to reject the gospel.**

“shaking off the dust” - visibly let people know.

• You are shaking your shoes off, you are not throwing your shoes at them.

• Rejection is serious.

• So be firm but kind when you warn them.

• You are not trying to bruise potential fruit.

• Go with the attitude that – “Its just not ripe yet.”

• “Look, you may rejecting Christ today and the plan of salvation, and that’s serious, but I believe there will be a time in the future you will want to receive Him as your Savior.”

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**VIII. Greater exposure to the gospel = greater responsibility = greater judgment.**

• 6 cities mentioned here –

3 in the O.T. (Sodom, Tyre, Sidon)

3 in the N.T. (Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum)

• All 6 had a witness to the truth and rejected it.

• All 6 cities are nowhere to be found today.

• The 70 are to say to a city that rejects the gospel, “Your judgment at the GWTJ will be greater and more severe.”

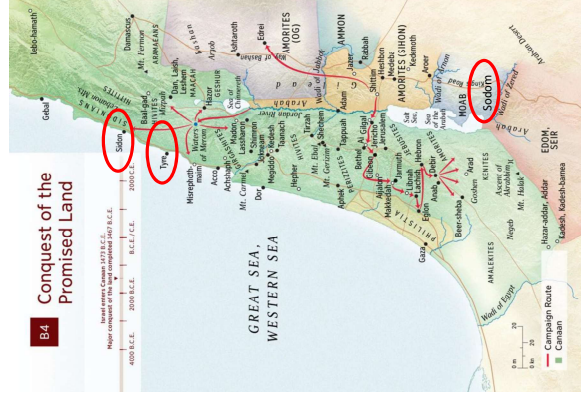
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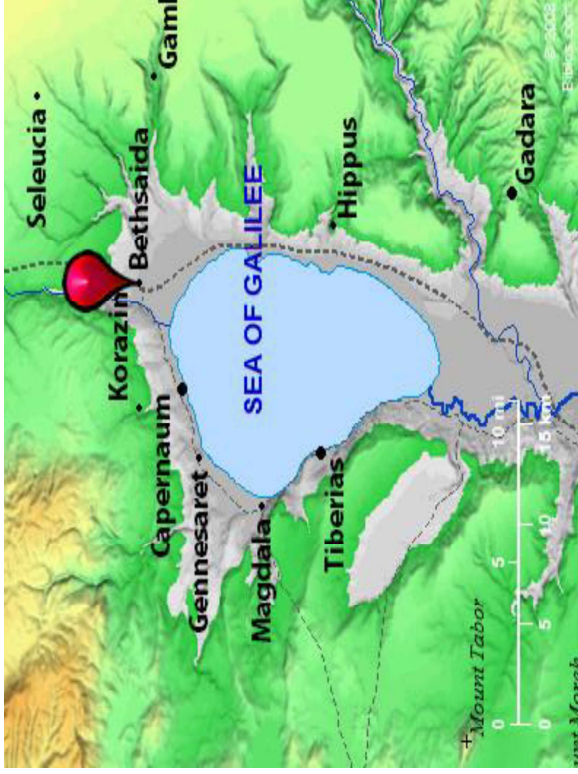
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- **Tyre and Sidon** - jewels of the Phoenician empire. Wealthy, port cities, idolatrous, evil, wicked. Gentile cities.
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- **Sodom** – filled with homosexuals (Gen. 18,19) Destroyed for their wickedness.
- **Chorazin & Bethsaida** – pagan, idolatrous cities.
- **Capernaum** – rejected Christ even though He spent most of His Galilean ministry there.
- What's the difference between O.T. cities and N.T. cities? O.T. cities did not have exposure to the Lord Jesus walking among them. Unpardonable sin.
- Rejecting Christ will receive a severer punishment than Sodom being incinerated.
- It is not the degree of sin but the degree of rejection.
- **Note:** There are degrees of punishment in Hell based on the amount of exposure to the gospel.

### Heb 10:29

29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God,

### Luke 12:47-48

47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes,  
48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few."

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**IX. It is not true that if Jesus was here today, more people would believe in Him.**

- Chorazin and Bethsaida both had miracles done by Jesus when He was in those cities.
- Capernaum was the "headquarters" of Jesus when He was ministering in the greater Galilee region.
- We have the Word of God.
  - Miraculously inspired.
  - Complete.
  - Powerful.
  - Contains the words and miracles of Jesus Christ.
- You have the most powerful means available to bring someone to Christ. The Spirit of God and the Word of God.

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X. If you share the gospel and are rejected, they are not rejecting you, they are rejecting Jesus Christ and God.

## 2 John 9

9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

## John 5:23

23 He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

## 1 John 2:23

23 Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

- Don't let this throw you into a depression because people reject the gospel. Don't take it personal. It's not your message. You are just the messenger.

## Application

1. Sharing the gospel is one of the most exciting things you can do in your Christian life but there are principles that are helpful to understand. 2 X 2, adversity, prayer, provision, humility, receptivity, consequences, judgment.
2. The pressure is not on you. You are not in the business of converting someone. That is the Holy Spirit's job. Your job is to be faithful in sharing the gospel.
3. How often do you pray for God to raise up evangelists, missionaries, and believers who are committed to sharing the gospel?
4. How concerned are you about reaching the lost? Or are you more concerned about formality, religious practices, "political correctness?"
5. If you have repeatedly heard the gospel and rejected it, your judgment before God will be greater than someone who has never heard the Gospel.