

Luke 10.1-24

Joyful Ambassadors of the Risen King

Gathered TODAY to ACKNOWLEDGE & CELEBRATE Amazing FACT

NOT Everyone in THIS Building – City – Nation – World has NOTICED YET

Lord Jesus Christ – God the Son – Son of God – 2nd and Final Adam > ALIVE!

DAVID wrote these words in PROPHETIC Expectation of a GREATER DAVID

You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16.10,11

Risen Jesus: "...repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" Luke 24.47

1. Challenges of Mission

End Chapter 9 - RELUCTANT MESSENGERS, REFUSED CHRIST'S CALL

LIKE to FOLLOW – but FIRST they WANT to Do what They Want to Do!

But here in Ch 10 > 70 WILLING MISSIONERS > No EXCUSES! Ready to Go!

Jesus had MANY PLACES where He wanted GOSPEL of Kingdom to be Preached

a. Persecution WANT LESS PROBLEMS? DO NOT FOLLOW JESUS!

v. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

1st Missionaries to AFRICA packed Belongings in COFFIN > One-Way Trip

Jesus: "...a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God" John 16.2

"Cain will murder Abel, if he can, to the very end of the world" Martin Luther

LEAST Evangelized Areas of Today's World > Some of MOST DANGEROUS

v. 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed...

NOT going to FIND Happy, Clappy Reception Everywhere

NOT Everywhere will be like KIDS STREAMING to the ICE CREAM Store

Met REJECTION in Korazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum

Every cross-carrying disciple has a cross-proclaiming witness for Christ. Philip Ryken

b. Possessions TRAVEL LIGHT – Ready to MOVE!

v. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals > Know Him as Jehovah JIREH

NO EXTRAS – No Additional Gear, Clothes, Sandals > Just what you're Wearing

BLESSING of Life in WARM CLIMATE: Singapore Friend "*Just Wear & Throw*"

No EXTRA Shoes > Exceed Luggage Allowance with ONE PAIR of My Waterskis

We must beware of thinking too much about our meals, and our furniture, and our houses....We must endeavor to pass through the world like those who are not yet at home...Blessed are they who feel like pilgrims and strangers in this life, and whose best things are all to come. Bishop J.C. Ryle

...the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 1 Corinthians 7.29-31

c. Priorities SINGLE FOCUS on IMPORTANT Mission

v. 4 do not greet anyone on the road > NOT Invitation to be IMPOLITE, RUDE

NO Problem for Americans > Most Americans do NOT Know HOW to Greet

"Greet" - Africa How is day? family? wife? kids? job? week? year?
NOT TIME CONSCIOUS AMERICANS

No to the GOOD, Yes to BEST > SINGLE-MINDED FOCUS ON MISSION

BEWARE of ALLOWING WORLD TO EAT UP OUR TIME AND THOUGHTS

"Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Luke 11:43

"Do not move around from house to house" EAT TO LIVE NOT LIVE TO
Focus on GOD > Let HIM give you the UPGRADES > Not SOCIAL TRIP

Where He Leads Me I Will Follow, What He Feeds Me I Will Swallow
Missioner's Creed

"No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62

ISSUE OF TRUST - Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. But seek his kingdom, and these will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:22-34

d. Peacemaking

vs. 5-8 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.

Welcoming PREACHERS and the KINGDOM > One and Same Thing

Bring GOD'S SHALOM – Peace with God and Man – His Truth, Mercy, Justice

NOT MAGIC – Person has to WANT TO Receive BLESSING of God

Focus KINGDOM – NOT on being KOSHER – Day of Great OPPORUNITY

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit
Romans 14.17

MAKING and KEEPING the Peace / All Under One Small Roof / One LATRINE

2. Communication of the Message

a. **See** > People MUST SEE Gospel before they CAN HEAR IT – Jesus IN US!

vs. 8, 9 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them

MIRACLES ARE COMMON WHEN Kingdom INVADES Dark Territory
For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Corinthians 4.20

"If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually to become disciples, the Church in the West would be transformed, and the resultant impact on society would be staggering"
David Watson

b. **Hear** v. 9 "the Kingdom of God is near you"

NOT JUST EMPTY TALK - LIVING REALITY OF CHRIST the Risen King
ADVENT of God's Righteous Rule through His Son – Lord Jesus Christ

MANY CHRISTIANS ARE SILENT ABOUT FAITH - NEED TRAINING??
TELL WHAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED - blind now see, lost now found

85% > New Christians > COME Because Friend or Family TOLD THEM News

Many are intimidated to share Jesus because they feel they do not know what to say. Jesus...tells them simply to give of themselves and point to the presence of God. Sometimes we make evangelism more difficult than it needs to be. Darrell Bock

v. 21 "revealed them to little children" > KISS - Keep it SIMPLE SAINTS

People RESPONSIBLE to HEAR and OBEY > Kingdom Announcement

I've always said that I do not respect people who do not proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe there is a heaven and hell, and people could be going to hell, or not getting eternal life or whatever, and you think it is not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward... How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them?

Penn Jillette (of Illusionists 'Penn and Teller,' an outspoken atheist)

c. Jesus

v. 3 Go! I am sending you... >> Apostle – Authority – Ambassador

FULL ACCREDITATION of Message & Messengers > Eternally SERIOUS

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5.20

How can you defend the Bible? Like I would defend a lion, release him from the cage and let him defend himself. Charles Spurgeon

BIBLICAL Message - Not cute stories about my wife & kids – LIVING POWER

v. 16 "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

When we listen to living preachers of Christ let us remember that they do not stand or speak alone, for Christ himself and the living Father are by their side and in their mouths. Douglas Milne

God's TRUTH in Scripture / God's POWER in His SERVANTS who Obey Him

3. Confidence of the Missioners

a. Partners 70 or 72 - disagreement of ancient MSS

v. 1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two

Do NOT have Luke's ORIGINAL MSS > Only Original's INNERANT – Infallible

DO have REMARKABLY Accurate COPIES of Original's > 1000's of Examples

Minor TEXTUAL UNCERTAINTIES ON MINOR ISSUES - FIRM Foundation

Genesis 10 > HEBREW Bible – 70 Gentile NATIONS / GREEK Septuagint - 72

2 X 2 for ENCOURAGEMENT and ACCOUNTABILITY

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. Acts 14.23

b. Prayer BIG Challenge FACE with BIG GOD

v. 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

NOT JUST A PRAYER FOR THEMSELVES - BUT ALSO FOR OTHERS

Pray for other Churches and Ministries in the Harvest

DRIVING Power of Mission ENTERPRISE belongs to RISEN KING JESUS

...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel
Ephesians 6:18,19

Jesus PERSPECTIVE > World is Ready for HARVEST – Even Dark Places

"Before Christ sent the church into the world, he sent Spirit into church. The same order must be observed today."
John Stott

How many MORE EASTER'S Need to PASS Until we have FINISHED TASK?

c. Position Secure v. 11 Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.'

ANNOUNCING the Kingdom > NOT AMENDING the Terms of the King

It is NEAR > Whether or NOT it is RECEIVED or REJECTED

Kingdom NO LESS Present for those who REJECT IT > SPURNING the King

What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness?
Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar.
Romans 3.3,4

Jesus RISEN KING over Beijing – Whether Beijing WANTS Him or NOT

"The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head." Obadiah 15

vs. 10, 11 when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you.

SYMBOLIC Act > PLACED Themselves OUTSIDE the PEOPLE of God

Sign of SEPARATION > Rejected God & His Truth > ACCOUNTABILITY

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. Acts 17.30

vs. 12-15 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.

Sovereign Lord – Knows what WILL Happen and WHAT COULD have Happened
ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES of RESPONSE: WOE Not Vengeance > REGRET

Both INDIVIDUAL Sin and COMMUNITY Sin > Measured & Judged by God

KORAZIN & BETHSAIDA- Many MIRACLES OF JESUS PERFORMED HERE
CAPERNAUM > became NEW Hometown of Jesus > Kicked Out of NAZARETH

God's Judgment BASED on Opportunities People had to RESPOND to God

DEGREES of INTENSITY of Judgment > LEVELS of Opportunity EXTENDED

TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN - MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED

GREATEST DANGER - SEEN JESUS AND REJECT HIM

What city could ever be worse off than Sodom? According to the Bible, the answer is any city that ever heard the gospel but still rejected Jesus. Philip Ryken

v. 15 "Will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths"

Jesus predicts the future humbling or death of the city... Today the deserted site of Capernaum bears its eloquent, silent testimony to this prophecy. Earle Ellis

Incredible HARDNESS of Human HEART - SAW & HEARD Jesus & REJECTED
NO EXCUSE - DEEPLY GUILTY IN GOD'S SIGHT

On December 28, 1908 beautiful city of Messina, Italy EARTHQUAKE

84,000 people died - One of Worst Disasters in History

CUP OF INIQUITY WAS FULL AND TIME FOR JUDGMENT HAD COME

3 DAYS BEFORE - Christmas - Newspaper "Il Telefono"

Blasphemous parody of Jesus ended - Daring Almighty - Earthquake!

Hours before Earthquake: Town Government passed a series of violent resolutions

It is not open sin and flagrant wickedness alone which ruins souls. We have only to sit still and do nothing, when the Gospel is pressed to our acceptance, and we shall find ourselves one day in the pit. We have only to remain cold, careless, indifferent, unmoved, and unaffected, and our end will be in hell. No sin makes less noise, but none so surely damns the soul, as unbelief. Bishop J.C. Ryle

4. Marvelous Celebration

RETURN with JOY points FORWARD to SENDING Spirit-filled CHURCH

a. Joy of Victory > Spontaneous JOY – UNEXPECTED SUCCESS

vs. 17-19 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Disciples BRIMMING with JOY over Great Success of Mission Work

No Specific Reference to Demons in COMMISSIONING CHARGE by Christ
WHEN Jesus is Lifted Up > Satan-Crushing Power is IN JESUS

WE become SPIRITUAL SNAKE-HANDLERS > Declare RISEN JESUS!

SUCCESS by DELEGATED Authority of JESUS Himself

TRAMPLE on LOATHSOME Creatures > Serpents & Scorpions // Picture EVIL

ULTIMATE Triumph of Jesus is foreshadowed by DOWNFALL of SATAN

COMPLETE Destruction of Satan > GLORIOUS Return of King Jesus

Because of Cross & Resurrection > BOUND under God's Sovereign Control

FUTURE ANTICIPATION > Coming of Jesus – Then and Now

v. 1 sent them two by two ahead of him *to every town and place where he was about to go*

He WENT After 70 > COMING Again to Places we NOW WORK for HIM

b. Joy of Life >> Hierarchy of Joys > Deeper MORE Secure Joy

Do not REJOICE about SATAN > Rapidly-FALLING Enemy – DOOMED

v. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

"your names are written in heaven." > PERFECT Tense: PERMANENT

Jesus turns Attention to PERMANENT, ETERNAL REALITIES

Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. Isaiah 4.3

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered. Daniel 12.1

Idea BOOK of LIFE > DEEPLY Rooted in Culture of Ancient Near East

KINGS who Ruled Empires > LONG LISTS of NAMES of their SUBJECTS
 Mary & Joseph > Bethlehem > Caesar Augustus decreed CENSUS in all ROME
 NAME in KING'S Book > Assurance of RIGHTS & Privileges of CITIZENSHIP

Nothing impure will ever enter it, (*the New Jerusalem*) nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.
 Revelation 21.27

c. Joy of God > Greater Joy than even ETERNAL LIFE

vs. 21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth..."

STRONGEST Word > Thrilled with Joy – Ecstatic – Overwhelmed by Joy

Jesus REJOICES in SUCCESS of His SERVANTS & DOWNFALL of SATAN

JOY is the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit > Jesus FILLED with Joy, Filled with Spirit

5 X's Jesus calls GOD > FATHER/ 3 X's calls Himself SON, ONLY Time in Luke

Father – Son – and Spirit > GLORY in Eachother, REJOICE in Eachother

Jesus was baptized...he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him...And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
 Luke 3.21,22

Few MINUTES Lisa Ann will ENTER into that TRIUNE JOY of God in Baptism

Mt of TRANSFIGURATION: ...a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."
 Luke 9.34,35

There can be no greater joy than this: the eternal joy that God enjoys in the being of God.
 Philip Ryken

INVITES US to ENTER into this JOY > God's Good Pleasure we KNOW HIM vs. 21, 22 ...because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Some Consider SOVEREIGNTY of God – Dark, Difficult Doctrine

For JESUS it is BASIS of UNBOUNDED JOY – Good Pleasure of the Godhead

Salvation not for WISE – Religious Establishment – SIMPLE Children of FAITH

We need TEACHABLE Spirit and CHILD-LIKE Trust in RISEN JESUS Christ

vs. 23,24 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Moses longed to see Prophet Greater than Himself

Isaiah longed to see Child born of a Virgin

Micah longed to see Eternal One born in Bethlehem

Haggai longed to see the Desire of Nations Come

Malachi longed to see Sun of Righteousness rise with healing in His Wings

WE ARE PEOPLE: on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come 1 Corinthians 10:11

the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you
1 Peter 1:10-13

REJOICE – Ambassadors of Risen King – Names Written in Book of Life

Enter ETERNAL JOY of Father, Son, and Spirit
 Now more TRUE than Ever Before > THE KINGDOM of God is NEAR

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your
 presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16.11

1. After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. 5. "When you enter a house, first say, `Peace to this house.' 6. If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. 7. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

8. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.
9. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'
10. But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,
11. 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet
be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' 12. I tell you, it will be more bearable
on that day for Sodom than for that town. 13. "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you,
Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in
Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.
14. But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.
15. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down
to the depths. 16. "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects
me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me." 17. The seventy-two returned
with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." 18. He
replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
19. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome
all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20. However, do not rejoice
that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."
21. At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you,
Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the
wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your
good pleasure. 22. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one
knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except
the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." 23. Then he turned to
his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.
24. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did
not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."