

November 19, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Luke 10:1-16 – “Laborers Sent Out”

A. Each of us ought to heed warnings signs. It is for your own safety!
Scripture gives us warnings for our eternal good as well.

B. At the end of **Lu 9**, Jesus rebuked James and John for asking to “**command fire to come down from heaven and consume**” the Samaritans who refused them and Jesus hospitality. His answer was that, “**the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them**” (**vv54-56**).

Put your faith in Jesus who sent out His laborers to preach.	I. <u>THE DUTIES AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE SENT OUT</u> II. <u>CHRIST WARNS ALL WHO REJECT HIS LABORERS</u>
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I. THE DUTIES AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE SENT OUT →**v1**

A. These 70 disciples are going out in the same fashion as John the Baptist.

1. God spoke through Malachi when he foretold John’s coming saying, “**Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me**” (**Mal 3:1**).¹
2. Earlier in **chapter 3**, Luke wrote of John “...as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘**The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight**’” (**v4**).
3. According to today’s text in **v1**, Jesus “**sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.**” They were preparing those cities and towns for the coming of Jesus the Messiah as He was making His way to Jerusalem.

B. Even though Jesus has already come to accomplish His mighty work of redemption, **v2** holds true as a regular need in our public and private prayers. →**v2**

1. There are still parts of the world, parts of America, and even parts of Louisiana that have a void of any sound gospel preaching and teaching.
2. For those places in our world where there is no gospel witness, we ought to earnestly pray to “**the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**”

C. In their duties to bring the harvest of sons and daughters into the kingdom, Jesus warned of dangers in **v3** saying, “**Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.**”

1. One of the jobs of the those sent out is to spare God’s flock from being devoured by wolves.
2. Those in the world seek to devour others as wolves do.
3. They must also be spared from false prophets and teachers in the church who appear to be “**in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves**” (**Mat 7:15**).

D. Look at the support that should be given to the laborers. →**vv4-9**

1. Without a money belt or a bag for extra clothes, they were to be cared for by their hosts.
2. When blessed with preaching of the true gospel, you can say, “**The Kingdom of God has come near**” to me! When listening to true preaching in accordance with the Holy Word, you are not merely listening to the voice of the one sent but to the One who sent Him.

¹ Also see **Isa 40:3**.

II. CHRIST WARNS ALL WHO REJECT HIS LABORERS →**vv10-11**

- A. There will always be those who reject God's Word, His gospel, His laborers, and His people.
1. Those who reject His laborers reject the One who sent them (**v16**).
 2. Sadly those who reject Christ do so because they believe they have another way of salvation.
 - a. It could be Allah the great deceiver and the false prophet Muhammad.
 - b. It could be Buddha or some other false deity.
 - c. Still others reject Christ because they believe they are "good people," yet their supposed righteousness is like filthy, stinky rags.²
 - 1) It is a terrible sin to reject Jesus as Savior. It is the greatest of insults to God!
 - a) God offers you His love, mercy, and compassion by offering you His only begotten Son. He offers His Son to suffer the wrath and curse due to you for sin in your place.
 - b) If you say, "I don't need or want Him," you have spit in His face!
 - 2) To reject the mercy of Christ is spiritual suicide of the worst degree!
- B. What Jesus said next concerning cities who reject Him also applies to individuals who reject Him and His laborers. →**vv12-15**
1. Tyre and Sidon were city-states of the Phoenician people just north of Galilee of the promised land. They are listed here as examples of notorious, pagan cities.
 - a. **Judges 1:31** mentions how Asher failed to drive out the inhabitants of Sidon.
 - b. Israel committed spiritual adultery by worshiping Sidonian gods (**Ju 10:6**).
 - c. Infamous Queen Jezebel, the wife of wicked King Ahab, was a Sidonian (**1 Ki 16:31**).
 2. Those people rejecting the gospel of Christ will have a worse judgment than these pagan cities because they are sinning against greater, revealed light
- C. The Jewish cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum are all mentioned here as sinning against greater light and privilege because Jesus taught and performed miracles in these cities. Of the three, Christ's greatest works were done in Capernaum, yet most there rejected Jesus as Messiah. →**v15**
1. Even to this day, the vast majority of Capernaum is still ancient, stone ruins.
 2. The city's desolation is but a small picture of the greater desolation and eternal ruin of its residents who rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior!

Review, further application, and conclusion:

² Isaiah 64:6