

I. Introduction: What is the greatest sin?II. Jesus sends out harvesters. 10:1-12

- A. Again, messengers are appointed to prepare the way of the Lord. 9:52 1:76
1. Who are the seventy and from where did they come? 6:13 8:1-4
  2. What is the significance of the number seventy? Gen. 10 Num. 11:16-30
  3. Their purpose was to announce the presence of the kingdom of God. 10:6,9,11 9:1-6 Mt. 3:2 4:17 10:7
  4. Why do they travel in pairs? Deut. 19:15 Lev. 19:17 Mark 6:7
- B. There are aspects of their mission which were unique to this particular situation. 9:1-6 Mt. 9:37-38 10:7-16 11:21-23
1. They were personally chosen for the task by Jesus. v. 1a 6:13 Acts 1:22 1 Tim. 3:1-7
  2. They were given authority to work miracles. v. 9,17 4:18-19 7:21-23 Isa. 61:1-2 35:5 Heb. 2:4 2 Co. 12:12
  3. They travel very light (this time) --no money, no bag, no extra shoes. v. 4 22:36
  4. Their mission was so urgent they were forbidden from wasting time exchanging greetings on the road. v. 4b 9:60,62 1:40 Acts 18:22 John 20:19 2 Ki. 4:29 Neh. 6:3
  5. Theirs was to be a transient ministry – staying a short time in many different places and then returning to Jesus. 10:17 Acts 19:8 20:31 14:23
  6. They had a unique procedure which they were to follow when they entered a city. v. 5-12 Gen. 18:1ff 19:1ff
- C. This passage illustrates many (at least 15) valuable ongoing principles of ministry/mission.
1. The work of ministry is like harvesting. v. 2a 8:8,15 John 4:35 Mt. 9:37-38
    - a. God makes things grow. 1 Co. 3:6-7
    - b. We have the privilege of reaping. Acts 18:10
  2. Teamwork in mission/ministry is good, as opposed to having harvesters work alone. v. 1 Ecc. 4:9-12 Acts 13:2 14:23 15:27,39-40 17:14 19:22
  3. We should pray that the Lord would send out more laborers to the harvest – because the need is great. v. 2b John 4:35 Mt. 9:37-39
  4. God still sends out messengers – How can we know whom God is sending? 4:18 John 20:21 Acts 20:28 13:1ff 1 Tim. 3:1-7
  5. The work of mission is to be engaged in by many (all of us), not just a few clergymen. Eph. 4:11-12 1 Pet. 4:10-11 Phil. 2:15
  6. The work of mission/harvesting is urgent. v. 4b Neh. 6:3
  7. The work of mission is laborious. v. 2b 2 Tim. 2:3-6,15
  8. The work of harvesting is dangerous – we go into hostile territory. v. 3 Mt. 7:15 10:16 Acts 20:26 1 Jo. 3:13
  9. Those who do God’s harvesting work should be content to live a life of simplicity. v. 4,7 9:58 8:13-14 Phil. 4:11-13
  10. We should make sure that the material needs of the harvesters we send are met -- provision and hospitality. v. 7b 1 Tim. 5:18 1 Cor. 9:14 1 Pet. 4:9 Heb. 13:2
  11. Those sent out to harvest should be concerned about the physical needs of those to whom they minister. v. 9
  12. The main ministry of missions is the proclamation of the gospel/kingdom. v. 9b 9:2 Rom. 10:14-15 Js. 1:18 1 Co. 2:2
  13. We should not be surprised when some reject our message (and us). v. 10 John 1:11
  14. A point comes at which we should move away from those who reject Jesus’ message. v. 10-11 Mt. 7:6

15. The message of the kingdom includes a warning about God's wrath which will come upon those who reject Jesus and His message. v. 12 John 5:28ff Ps. 96:13 Acts 17:31

III. All will be judged based upon their reception of Jesus' messengers (and message). v. 6-16

- A. God tests people according to their reception of those whom He sends. 9:53 11:32
- B. The kingdom draws near when God's message comes through His messengers. v. 9b,11 Mt. 13:30 Rev. 14:14-15
- C. Those who receive the messengers and the message of the kingdom are blessed. v. 6-9
1. Jesus offers peace to mankind. 1:79 2:48 7:50 12:51 Isa. 9:6f John 20:19 Rom. 5:1
  2. Those who welcome Jesus' messengers are sons of peace. v. 6
  3. They have the privilege of showing hospitality to the Lord's messengers. v. 7-8
  4. As a result, they will experience kingdom blessings. v. 9,17 7:22-23 Isa. 35:5 61:1
  5. Through Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we are sons of peace and offer His peace to others. Rom. 5:1,8-11 Num. 6:24-26
- D. Those who reject Jesus' message and messengers come under judgment. v. 10-16 7:30 9:48 12:46-48 16:23ff 21:22 Mt. 11:20-24 1 Sam. 25:5ff
1. What is the significance of the harvesters shaking the dust off their feet? v. 10-11 9:5 Acts 13:51
  2. How are the sins of these cities similar to the sins of Sodom? v. 12 Gen. 19:1ff 1 Sam. 25:5ff
  3. The sin of rejecting Jesus' messengers is greater than the sins of Sodom. v. 12 9:54
  4. The Day of the Lord will be a terrible day of judgment for many who will be brought down to hades. v. 12,15b 16:23 21:34 Mt. 7:22 2 Th. 1:10 Rev. 20:13-15
  5. If the people of Tyre and Sidon would have repented if they saw such miracles why didn't God send His messengers to those cities? v. 13-15 Isa. 23 Ezek. 26-28 Am. 1:9
  6. How can the judgment upon the cities of Galilee be even more severe? 12:47f
  7. This is a horrible indictment upon the Israelites of Jesus' day. v. 15 14:11 18:14 1:52 John 1:11
  8. Terrible judgment does fall upon these cities in 70 AD.
- E. Your treatment of those whom Jesus sends is, in effect, your treatment of Jesus Himself. v. 16 20:19ff Eph. 2:17 Rom. 10:14-15
1. Jesus still sends harvesters into the world proclaiming His kingdom.
  2. Jesus' kingdom is present where His messengers proclaim the gospel. John 13:20 5:23 12:48 14:6 1:14,18 15:23 8:42 Ro. 10:9,13-15

IV. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. In what ways is the sending of the seventy a unique event?
2. What was Jesus' purpose in sending them?
3. What was the meaning of the miracles the seventy performed?
4. What ongoing principles for sending out missionaries does this passage contain?
5. Why are the cities of Galilee more guilty than Sodom, Tyre and Sidon?
6. How does God want you to be involved in the harvest?
7. How should this passage comfort us when our witness to Jesus is rejected?
8. What kind of harvest should we expect?