

## RECEIVING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF CHRIST

**INTRO:** Luke is the only Gospel writer who gives us the account of the sending out of the seventy. Earlier Luke gives the account of the sending of the twelve into Galilee, and then the messengers that go to Samaria, and now the seventy who go into Judea and Perea.

This passage gives the punishment awaiting those who reject these laborers and their message. But it also tells of the joy that these men have in their labors, and the joy of Christ who has sent them.

### I. **WHO THEY ARE:**

- A. There were 70 sent out.
  1. Members of the group that were following Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem.
  2. Jesus is the Antitype of Moses, the mediator of the Old Covenant who appointed 70 elders to help him (Nu. 11).
  3. They are to go out two by two: to help and encourage each other and to be valid witnesses.
- B. They are 'sent out' ones.
  1. Christ has appointed them and sent them out.
  2. Those whom he appoints he also equips, qualifies, and ordains.
  3. They serve as ambassadors of Christ, representatives of Christ.
  4. They are laborers, not loafers. They must work in the fields of harvest.
- C. The urgency in their labors:
  1. They stand in sharp contrast to the would-be followers of Christ in Luke 9: 57ff.
  2. The harvest is plentiful, there is much work to do. The laborers must not delay.
  3. Travel light without money bags or provisions, not stopping on the way to visit or exchange greetings.
- D. No easy task.
  1. They are sent out as lambs among wolves:
  2. In their danger and helplessness, they are to rely on the One who sends them.
  3. The necessity of praying for these kind of laborers: self-denying, Christ loving, hard working servants-laborers.

### II. **OUR RECEIVING THEM and THE MESSAGE THEY BRING**

- A. The MESSAGE:
  1. "The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." (vs.9,11) This term occurs 30 times in Luke's gospel!
  2. They are to go into every city and place where Jesus would come and prepare the people for welcoming Christ.
  3. In word and in deed, these laborers bring Christ's Word and they bring Christ's healing.
  4. When they speak and work, it is Christ who speaks and works. Therefore the kingdom has come nigh to them!
  5. The kingdom is that realm of God's redemptive work where one is set free from sin and enters Christ's liberty.
  6. It is God's elective love that is the basis for this labor giving direction for where it is done and assuring fruit on it.
- B. A two-fold effect.
  1. By grace there will be those who receive the good news with gladness.
  2. They will take these laborers into their homes and hearts.
  3. Given to these homes is God's peace. This peace is not a mere wish, but it is an effectual word of the Lord!
  4. But there will also be those who will not receive these laborers and their message.
  5. This was true of much of Galilee, Samaria, and also in the cities of Judea. Laborers are not to take this personally
  6. Of these there is no peace, but the dust is wiped off of the laborers shoes.
- C. The necessity of receiving these laborers.
  1. They are representatives of Christ! The Son of God gathers, defends and preserves to himself an elect church.
  2. Those who hear the laborers, hear Christ himself! There is a call unto repentance and faith.
  3. God's kingship, rule, and salvation is recognized in the hearts of God's people & operative in their lives.
  4. The warning: those who reject (set aside) the laborers reject (set aside) Christ who sends them and his Father.
- D. Our calling:
  1. What a burden of responsibility rests upon those who Christ appoints as his representatives!
  2. What a burden of responsibility rests upon those to whom and with whom these laborers work!
  3. Honor and receive them these men as Christ's representatives given to you for your salvation.

### III. **THE GREAT JOY**

- A. The seventy returned with great joy.
  1. It was a joy in seeing the kingdom of Satan retreating and destroyed. Mission accomplished!
  2. Christ sees Satan falling like lightning fall from heaven. The triumph that comes through the labors of representatives.
  3. But greater than the joy of knowing Satan's kingdom is destroyed is the knowledge that our names are in heaven
  4. It is the joy of saints who are heirs of heaven, look forward to being with God and enjoying intimacy with him.
  5. It is the joy of receiving from Christ a "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of thy Master."
- B. The joy of Jesus.
  1. These things hidden from the wise and prudent.
  2. These things revealed to babes.
  3. The Father through these laborers delivers the kingdom unto his glorious Son.
  4. Things revealed about the kingdom that many before longed to see and hear. Revealed to us.
  5. Representatives of Christ: through you the kingdom of God comes nigh to those whom you work with!