

What Personal Evangelism Looks Like: Seventy examples from Luke 10

Something to think about before we begin:

We have already discussed Jesus's promise that He would not leave the apostles as "orphans", but that He would be with them always, even to the end of the age, and would send them the Holy Spirit to accompany them as they gave their testimony of Him as the Christ. In what other practical way has God provided for our encouragement and companionship as we take the gospel out into a hostile world? [consider Acts 4:23-31; see also Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1; etc]

Luke 10:1-12

[Nearly all of the modern versions follow a textual variant in Luke 10:1 and 10:17 which indicates that Jesus sent seventy-two disciples out, rather than seventy. [KJV, NKJV, LSB, RSV, and ASV all read "seventy", while NLT, NIV, ESV, CSB, and NASB read "seventy-two"] For these questions, I will follow the more ancient reading of "seventy", though this number will not significantly alter the applications we are seeking to make from these texts. - cdb]

Sometime during the last six months of Jesus' life, He sent a larger group of disciples out into "the harvest" (see Luke 10:2). In what practical way did Jesus provide for their mutual encouragement as they went out? [Luke 10:1; cp Mark 6:7; etc]

Where, specifically, did He send them, and what might this indicate about the kind of work they would be doing? [Luke 10:1; cp the similar work of John the Baptist, as per Luke 3:4-6]

- In what way might our work of Personal Evangelism also be similar to what these seventy men and to what John the Baptist were doing?

Analyze Jesus' instructions to the seventy *in the light of Personal Evangelism*:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray..." [Luke 10:2]

- How did Jesus describe what was needed and what these men would be doing? Do you think they expected this was going to be an "easy" job?

- What was the first thing Jesus told them to be doing as they prepared and as they worked? [cp Paul's practice and petition, in Php 1:3-5, 19; Col 1:3-4; 4:2-4; 1 Th 5:25; 2 Th 3:1-2; etc]

"Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves." [Luke 10:3]

- Before sending them out into the whole world in the "Great Commission", Jesus first sent His disciples into the villages of Israel. Even among their own brethren, what did Jesus warn them would be their situation? Should **fear** realistically be a *deterrent* from sharing Jesus' message?

"Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals..." [Luke 10:4-8]

- How might these unusual instructions from Jesus help remind them what their focus ought to be and what it ought not to be? [Luke 10:4; cp Jesus' teaching in Matt 6:33; Mark 10:28-30]

- In practical terms, who would provide for the needs of these men as they went about doing the Lord's work? [Luke 10:7-8; cp Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:33; see also Php 4:10-20; etc]

"...say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" [Luke 10:9]

- Though we are no longer given the capacity miraculously to heal the sick as we teach, in what way should we continue to teach and show that "the kingdom of God has come near"? [note the message shared in Acts 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31; see also Gal 5:20-21; etc]

"...Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you..." [Luke 10:10-11]

- From Jesus' conversation with Simon the Pharisee (Luke 7:44) it seems that washing the feet was customarily done at the moment of a visitor's arrival. If this is the case, what might the "wiping" of the dust indicate about how Jesus' message of "peace" had been received?

- Did Jesus give the impression that a "successful" mission sharing His word would mean that **everyone** would receive it?

- What did Jesus tell His disciples to say to those who rejected His message? [Luke 10:11-12]
Would it be appropriate for us to say this same thing - or something similar - today? (cp Paul's words to the Jews in Acts 13:46; consider also the instructions in Luke 24:47)

Luke 10:17-20

What was the first obvious result in the lives of these men as they returned to Jesus with news of what they had been involved in? [Luke 10:17; cp Acts 5:41-42; 1 John 1:3-4; 3 John 4; etc]

From what both Jesus and the disciples said, what effect does the preaching of the gospel have with respect to "the power of the enemy"? [Luke 10:17-19; cp Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9-10; etc]

What is the ultimate blessing of joy the gospel provides for both teacher and receiver? [Luke 10:20; cp John 15:8-11]

May the Lord help us to find JOY as we prepare to enter the LABOR of His vineyard!!