

## **Tools for the Mission - Luke 10: 1-16**

In Luke 9, Jesus sent out the 12 (to the Jews, or the “lost sheep of Israel”, while in Galilee. Now in Luke 10, he sends out the 72 [or 70] to the “Gentiles” as he is headed to Jerusalem.

**Lk 10:1** *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.*

In the King James and in many other versions, the number in verse one is ‘seventy’, not seventy-two.

*...the members of Jacob’s family, which went to Egypt, were seventy in all.*

- Genesis 46:27, Exodus 1:5

*Then he said to Moses, “Come up (on the mountain) to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance,*

- Exodus 24:1

*“One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”*

- Deut. 19:15

*“Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.””*

- 2 Corinthians 13:1

It’s a good idea to have a ‘healthy’ distrust of our selves, and look to hold ourselves accountable wherever, and whenever possible.

*“...where he [Jesus] was about to go.”* We cannot save anyone. We can only come alongside the work that God is already doing, and lead or point the way to Jesus. He is the Savior... not us!

**Lk 10:2** *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.*

The need is always greater than the supply of workers.

Notice that God is asking for ‘WORKERS’, not supervisors, managers, or even CEO’s! Also notice that he is not necessarily asking for ‘born-again or ‘saved’ children of God, but WORKERS!!

**Pastor** – *“the good news is that we have all of the finances that we need for our new building project, the problem is that it’s still in your pockets!”*

***“My Father is always working, and so am I.”*** - John 5:17 –NLT

There’s obviously a great need. So what does Jesus first command us to do? Not to roll up our sleeves and dig right in, but to PRAY!!!

But what if we didn't ask the Lord to send out workers into his harvest field? What would the results or consequences be?

Remember; in praying for workers, we must be willing to go ourselves!

'Satan tries to limit our praying, because he knows that our praying will limit him. He trembles whenever he sees the weakest Christian on his knees.'

***Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*** - Isaiah 6:8

***Lk 10:3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.***

GO!!!

Every Christian is called to be a 'Missionary'!!! Photo slide

Why would a "good" God send anyone into a situation 'like' lambs among wolves??

Would Jesus say this to his disciples to scare them? No... but to warn them just like many of his commandments. 'Be wise, be careful!!

Even though we are ambassadors for the king of kings and Lord of lords, we should never expect to be treated royally by the world, but rather to be persecuted and even killed.

***"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."*** - Psalms 23:4

***Lk 10:4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.***

Pack light! The "purse" speaks of financial reserves [of which God would supply]. The "bag" suggests food reserves [of which God would supply]. Remember; this was a SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP, not a long-term one! The disciples were to travel and pack light!!!

***Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. -***

***- Luke 22:35,36***

The sandals... ***'During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet.'*** - Deuteronomy 29:5

***"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"*** -Matthew 6:31

... Long ceremonious greetings were common practices in the East at the time.

They were not to stop along the way to visit and exchange customary greetings. The mission was urgent!

***No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.***

– 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:4

***Lk 10:5 “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’***

Notice that he didn’t send them to the local synagogues (where the religious were), but to private homes.

*“Day after day, ... and from house to house, they **never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” Acts 5:42*

‘PEACE’ = “Shalom”; the Hebrew word for peace.

***Lk 10:6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.***

Find the ‘Person of Peace’

A person of peace is an individual who responds positively to ‘Spiritual Truth’.

“The quality of the receiver determines the nature of the reception!”

Remember; the farmer is not responsible for the outcome of the harvest, he is only responsible for throwing and planting the seeds.

***Lk 10:7 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. Lk 10:8 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.***

God is more concerned with quality and depth than he is quantity and numbers.

If you already have a ‘person of peace’ in view, work with them and stay with them, until they are ready. They are worth your time. They might be people of influence, and can impact their family, friends, and community!

\*\*\*Stay in a church until God tells you to leave!!!

***Lk 10:9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’***

This is our main message. ***“The kingdom of God is near you”***, or is at hand... again in verse 11.

***“And these signs will accompany those who believe: ... they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”*** Mark 16:17,18

Pray for people!!

***“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”***  
- John14:12-14 NIV

***Lk 10:10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,  
Lk 10:11 ‘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.’***

***Lk 10:16 “He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”***

***“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. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”***  
- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

To reject an ambassador is to reject the one who sent him.

## To summarize our mission as ‘WORKERS’

- 1.** Pray (for Harvesters)
- 2.** 2 X 2
- 3.** Speak “Peace” (raise spiritual truth)
- 4.** Eat what they give you
- 5.** Stay there, do ministry
- 6.** Don’t speak to people along the way  
(not everyone needs to know)
- 7.** Don’t take shoes or money (go humbly with your message)
- 8.** Don’t jump from house to house (focus on discipling the ‘Person of Peace’ and help them multiply)