

“Behold I Send You!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. There once was a popular expression, "He was a brick!" The term implied all that is **brave** and **loyal**. **Plutarch**, in writing about the **king of Sparta**, tells how the phrase was coined. - An **ambassador** on a diplomatic mission visited the famous city. Knowing that its strength was acclaimed throughout all of Greece, he had expected to see massive fortresses surrounding the town, but he found nothing of the kind. Surprised, he exclaimed to the ruler, "Sir, you have **no fortifications for defense**. Why is this?" "Ah, but we are **well protected**," he replied. "Come with me tomorrow and I will show you **the walls of Sparta**." The next day he led his guest to the plain where the army was drawn up in full battle array. Pointing proudly to his soldiers who stood fearlessly in place, he said, "Behold the walls of Sparta -- **10,000 men and every man 'a brick'!**"
 - 1.1.1. I believe this is how God sees his Church!
 - 1.1.2. Each believer a **brave & loyal brick**...as He constructs His Kingdom.
- 1.2. 1st Jesus was limited to only 12 bricks to work with in God's building(9:1-6).
 - 1.2.1. Now he had **70 others** that obeyed Him, & would help to reap the harvest.
- 1.3. The Galilee ministry is now closed, & the long slow journey to Jerusalem begun.
 - 1.3.1. This takes place either Samaria or in Perea(Gk. for "beyond", area east of the Jordan River, i.e., 'beyond the Jordan'; *Trans-Jordan*),
 - 1.3.2. Either one typify's foreign missions.
- 1.4. Chapter 10-18 is only here in Luke(except 11:14-32).

2. **SENDING OUT THE 70! (1-16)**

- 2.1. **PRAY & GO!** (1-4)
- 2.2. **The Lord appointed** – this is the foundation of all true Christian work.
- 2.3. **70** – or some manuscripts say **72**.
- 2.4. **70 others** – i.e. not the 12!
- 2.5. **2 by 2** – “two are better than one” - “by two or more witnesses...”
 - 2.5.1. Moses & Aaron; Joshua & Caleb; David & Jonathon; Peter & John; Paul & Barnabus; Luther & Melanchthon; John & Charles Wesley; Moody & Sankey;...¹
- 2.6. **Pray** – A.J. Gordon said, “You can do **more than pray** after you have prayed, but you **cannot do more than pray** until you have prayed.”
- 2.7. They were to go ahead of Him to every town & place He was about to go.
- 2.8. **Note** Jesus' **urgency**...2000 years ago!

¹ Griffith Thomas; Luke; pg.176.

- 2.9. **In a nut shell** – Pray before going; travel fast & light; heal the sick; & preach the gospel!
- 2.10. **The laborers are still few** –
- 2.10.1. **9:57-62** told us why - (ministry is **difficult** & even **dangerous**)
2.10.1.1. **But of course also very rewarding!**
- 2.11. **Labor Shortage** – (History)
- 2.11.1. In the **East** most worked for themselves.
2.11.1.1. They had to 1st take care of their own harvest before caring for others.
- 2.11.2. The owner of the field would order his servants to start harvesting.
2.11.2.1. He would like to see them do it w/o having to hire others.
- 2.11.3. The servants feared they'd be caught by the rainy season.
2.11.3.1. So they'd beg their master to hire laborers.
2.11.3.2. When the master sees the servants cannot finish cutting the wheat, he rushes to hire men, & goes to other towns & market places searching for idle laborers.
- 2.11.4. **Jesus has 12 men to preach the gospel.**
2.11.4.1. The field was too great for them!
- 2.11.5. **Jesus said to pray/ask the Father to send more men into the field.**
2.11.5.1. This prayer started to be answered at Pentecost (3000/5000).
- 2.11.6. **Mission work has gone on 2000 years now.**
2.11.6.1. The **harvest** is still great & the **laborers** are still few!
- 2.12. (3) **Go** – notice the relationship between **prayer & work**.
2.12.1. Often, “**God wants a thing done; moves a believer to pray that it may be done; & then God does it in answer to that prayer.**”[Evan Roberts, of Welsh Revival]
- 2.13. (3,4) Notice we can go:
- 2.13.1. **Confidently** – “**behold I send you**” – He was behind them.
2.13.1.1. **All their authority is found in these 4 words.**
- 2.13.2. **Mildly** – “**lambs**” – to show gentleness & inoffensiveness.
- 2.13.3. **Realistically** – “**among wolves**” – expect contrast & opposition.
2.13.3.1. **Lambs among wolves?** – isn't that like **goldfish** amongst **piranha's?** Little **pinky mice** amongst a big **Boa Constrictor?**
- 2.13.4. **Unencumbered** – “**carry neither**” – sacrifice even of traveling necessities, to show sincerity & trust.
- 2.13.5. **Seriously** - “**greet no one along the road**” – (not true politeness) speaking of long drawn out empty compliments.²
- 2.14. (4) **Greet no one along the road** - Yiddish word “*shmoose*” conveys the sense here.
2.14.1. “**Talk in a friendly way, chit-chat, engage in idle conversation, gossip.**”
2.14.2. Don't waste time, hasten to your destination & get on with your work!

² Ibid. pg.177

- 2.15. **SHALOM!** (5-9)
- 2.16. (7,8) **1st duty** is to think of our Master, **last** to think of self; *but it helps when we win them to self 1st, & then to Him.*
- 2.17. (8) **Eat whatever is before you** – How else would they reach the Gentiles?
 2.17.1. To refuse to eat the host's bread is a breach of hospitality.
 2.17.2. Remember, Jewish disciples going to reach Gentiles.
- 2.18. Sounds like God wants us up close & personal to those we minister to?
- 2.19. (9) **Heal** – Easterners are often more impressed by what people do than by what they say, thus religious men are thus expected to have extraordinary powers.
- 2.20. **Say** – The kingdom of god has come near to you.
- 2.21. **REJECTION!** (10-12)
- 2.22. Radical responsibility of hearing the message & not responding.
- 2.23. The message of truth is to be proclaimed whether it is welcomed or not.
- 2.24. **CITIES OF DOOM!** (13-16)
- 2.25. Christian workers don't need to be surprised if no results follow your faithful witness.
- 2.26. (16) Why acceptance of Jesus is so important! – It's why you can't just believe in God the Father!
- 2.27. They were sent out to **represent Him, & represent God.**

3. **RETURNING OF THE 70! (17-24)**

- 3.1. **THEIR JOY!** (17-20)
- 3.2. **Joy & rejoice** are the keys to this passage.
 3.2.1. Spiritual victory most satisfying in life.
- 3.3. (17) The 70 returned with **joy** after their successful short term mission's trip.
- 3.4. (18) While they were expelling the **subordinates** Jesus was noticing the **chief of demons**.
- 3.5. Jesus was not speaking of Satan being cast out at that precise moment, but that his **power had been broken** and that he was **subject to Jesus' authority**.³
 3.5.1. Language describing the triumph over Satan & all evil.
- 3.6. (19) **Christ's biddings are His enablings!**
- 3.7. (20) Jesus shared in their joy, **but reminded them** to rejoice primarily not in being **empowered for service**, but in having been **saved by grace**.⁴
 3.7.1. After all, their **work** might not always be successful...but their **salvation would never change!**

³Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible knowledge commentary*

⁴ Shepherd's Notes, pg.39.

- 3.7.1.1. **Written** - Perfect tense, which **means** the believers name stands written in heaven, & always will be written in heaven. 😊
- 3.7.2. This verse completes the description of the **responsibilities & privileges** of discipleship begun in 9:51.
- 3.8. **JESUS' JOY!** (21-24)
- 3.9. If **the 70** rejoiced in the privileges of **service & salvation**, **Jesus** rejoiced in the sovereignty of the **Father** & the privilege He had of **submitting to Him**. (www)
- 3.10. Jesus rejoiced because the father's will was being accomplished in their lives.
 - 3.10.1. **Q: What brings joy to your heart?**
- 3.11. **Note the enlarging of the circle of workers...** the 12; the 70; ultimately the entire church, the body of Christ!
 - 3.11.1. Today I'd like to talk about the 2000! (approx # of adults on a Sunday morning)

4. SENDING OUT THE 2000!

- 4.1. **How does this apply to CCM?**
 - 4.1.1. Let me 1st answer a question...
- 4.2. **How's the building Project coming?**
- 4.3. Multi Species Act – still affecting our property.
- 4.4. Too costly for us to build – debt would be too many millions.
- 4.5. God's direction for us now regarding finances?
 - 4.5.1. Conviction to Pay off Debt. [approx. 5, but appraised for 40]
 - 4.5.2. Conviction to pay our staff an adequate wage to live in our area.
- 4.6. **Now, we're still in a building project...just a different kind!**
 - 4.6.1. 1 Cor.3:9 **"you are the building of God."**
 - 4.6.2. Jude 20 **"build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life."**
 - 4.6.3. **The purpose of a building is to be used!**
 - 4.6.4. I believe God has shown our leadership team very clearly, He wants us to be used in our **community**, & to touch our **world!**
 - 4.6.5. An example of God confirming this, this week!
 - 4.6.5.1. **Harvest Festival – Any area, but not Harvest Festival!**
 - 4.6.5.2. Property across the street. Starting grading in Sept.
 - 4.6.5.3. **No parking. Must do off-site.**
 - 4.6.5.4. How about joining our City's?
 - 4.6.5.4.1. Dean – talked w/parks & rec & they talked to the city attorney. Said ok to our booths. Can't put our name on flyer(don't want you to).
 - 4.6.5.4.2. Pray – Mtg. Tues 9am.

- 4.6.6. **My heart** – I'm not trying to make it a "*Christian event*".
- 4.6.7. Then I'd love to see about 400 workers from CCM to love on our city/community by **serving them!**
- 4.6.8. Then I'd love to see 6-7000 attendees to go their & just be "**living, breathing, real, authentic, genuine followers of Jesus Christ!**"
- 4.7. **Remember** the King of Sparta when he said, "**Come with me tomorrow and I will show you the walls of Sparta.**" The next day he led the ambassador to the plain where his army was drawn up in full battle array. Pointing proudly to his soldiers who stood fearlessly in place, he said, "**Behold the walls of Sparta -- 10,000 men and every man 'a brick!'**"
- 4.8. I'd like to say to our community "Come with me and I will show you the walls, **not of Sparta, but of CCM!**"
 - 4.8.1. **Behold the walls of CCM...a few thousand men & women, & every one a brick!**
- 4.9. Jesus sent out the 70...I believe we have the **opportunity & responsibility** to send out 70 x's 30! (2100)
- 4.10. The Lord expects His followers to **work**, especially in view of the great need(white Harvest) & scarcity of helpers(laborers are few).
 - 4.10.1. **1st by prayer, then by effort!**