



Today's Message

Date: November 15, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Messengers of the Gospel*

Text: Luke 10:1–16 (ESV)

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’

¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. ¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

Introduction: Luke alone records this second preaching tour in which Jesus sends out his disciples. Throughout the Gospel of Luke, it seems that the author directs us to the larger mission that Jesus gave to his church in Acts. This preaching tour seems to be a precursor. We will point out differences between the two but focus on the similarities.

Today's take-home truth: Jesus equips and sends gospel messengers.

I. Gospel messengers serve as Jesus' "advance team" in the mission. 1

- A. All his followers are on the team.
- B. Jesus sends them where he intends to go.

II. Gospel messengers obey Jesus' instructions in the mission. 2-11

- A. He calls them to pray faithfully for the mission. 2
- B. He shows them to expect opposition in the mission. 3
- C. He commands them to act honorably in the mission. 5-7
- D. He insists that they never change the message in the mission. 8-11
 - 1. Some will receive the message. 8-9
 - 2. Some will reject the message. 10-11
 - 3. But the message remains the same. 10-11

III. Gospel messengers grieve for those who squander their opportunity. 12-15

- A. Condemnation awaits all who reject the message.
- B. The greater their privilege, the worse their destiny.

IV. Gospel messengers speak for God himself. 16

- A. They speak for Jesus.
- B. Jesus speaks for the Father.