

# LABOURERS SENT INTO THE HARVEST

Luke 10:1-20

## Jesus sent out 'seventy others' Luke 10:1

- **Appointed by the Lord** – it is important to know that we have been 'appointed'.
- **Sent two by two** – 35 teams going out! They were not going alone.

The word '*sent*' is the Greek word '*apostello*' – this was an apostolic sending.

- **Into every place where "He Himself was about to go"** – Jesus was going with them.
- They were preparing the way for Jesus to come.

## There is a great harvest

v.2 *"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest".*

**'labourers' = teachers, ones who have been disciplined and trained.**

- The ones sent out had been properly disciplined and trained, so they knew what to teach.

- There is a great harvest
- Pray for more labourers to be sent out into the harvest
- It is 'His harvest' – we are working with Him, in His harvest.

Matthew also records these exact same words of Jesus in **Matthew 9:37-38**.

- The word for '**send**' is the Greek word '*ekballo*' meaning: to eject & is also translated as 'cast out'.
- Are you ready to be 'thrust out' into the harvest?

## Jesus answered His own prayer

- In **Matthew 10** – by sending out the twelve apostles
- In **Luke 10** – by sending out 'seventy others'.

## Jesus gives instructions to those He sends out into the harvest

v.3 Sent out as *"lambs among wolves"*

- There will be opposition.
- The opposition can come from men: religious leaders, man's traditions, or it can be demonic.
- Jesus told the ones he sent out in **Matthew 10:16** *"be wise as serpents and harmless as doves"*.

v.4 Jesus wants them to **trust Him for everything**, even their provision.

- If we know we are doing God's will, we can trust Him to provide all we need.
- **"Greet no one along the road"** this is an instruction to **stay focused on the task**. [2 Kings 4:29]

v.5-6 Jesus instructed them to find a house where they would be received – **'a house of peace'**.

- the 'peace of God' is the sign that you are in a place where you are received.
- Do not remain in a place where there is no peace.
- Jesus commanded ministry in and from the house.

v.7 In a house of peace, there will be provision.

- **"the labourer is worthy of his wages"** the one who gives spiritual food, can expect to be taken care of materially. [1 Timothy 5:17-18]

v.8 Jesus emphasises the importance of being 'received'.

- We are to receive and look after the ones God sends to us.

v.9 *"Heal the sick ... and say ... the kingdom of God has come near to you"*

- Healing the sick is a sign that the kingdom of God has come!
- Jesus gave the same instructions to the twelve apostles sent out in **Luke 9:2**: **"He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick"**.

- Healing the sick can open people up to receive the kingdom of God, and it is a major aspect of the 'good news' of the kingdom!

### **There will be those who do not receive**

**v.10** Jesus' instructions were to go and preach **"the kingdom of God"**.

- If people do not receive the message preached Jesus says: **"know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you" v.11.**

- We are to be faithful to obey Jesus but know that not everyone will receive the message.

### **Jesus is the one who is being rejected**

- **"He who hears you hears Me, and he who rejects you rejects Me, and He who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me" v.16.**
- Jesus warned the ones He sent out in **Matthew 10:16-23** that they must be prepared to face persecution & opposition.

### **The ones sent out 'reported back'**

**v.17** The ones sent **"returned with joy"**

- They reported to Jesus what had happened.
- **Being accountable & reporting back** is an important part of being 'sent'

- **Acts 14:26** – Paul & Barnabas **"reported all that God had done"** to those who had sent them.

### **The ones sent had experienced the power of God working through them**

- They had recognised the power of the 'Name of Jesus'
- **"even demons are subject to us in Your name".**

### **Jesus knew His authority over the devil**

**v.18** Jesus said, **"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"**

- This is **not a reference to Satan's original rebellion** against God
- Jesus was saying that **when He sent the 70 out with His authority and power, Satan's power was overcome!**
- Principalities and powers in the heavenlies are overcome by the workers that are sent by Jesus to represent Him! The **"gates of Hades shall not prevail"** against Jesus' people, the church (**Matt.16:18**)
- **Through prayer there is a shift in the heavenlies that brings a manifestation on the earth.**

### **Jesus gave even more authority to the ones He sent – v.19**

- Demonic beings were 'under their feet'
- Jesus gave them authority **"over all the power of the enemy"** and assured

them the nothing would **"by any means hurt you"**.

- Jesus affirms this authority in His commission in **Mark 16:17-18.**

**v.20 "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven".**

- There is a **"Book of Life"** where names are written (**Philippians 4:3**) of those who have been **"fellow workers"**
- Do not look for an 'earthly' reward (**2 Corinthians 4:18**), what we do in Jesus Name is eternal.
- Paul knew there was a **"crown of righteousness"** (**2 Timothy 4:8**) awaiting him.

- Stay humble even as you see great spiritual victories and the kingdom work going forward!

### **Summary:**

- Jesus is with the ones sent out
- Expect opposition
- Trust Jesus for everything
- Stay focused on the mission
- Stay in the place where you are received
- Heal the sick
- Preach the kingdom of God
- Be accountable.
- Know and walk in the authority that Jesus has given you