

The Gospel of Luke

The Plentiful Harvest

Luke 10:1-7

1. The People: The Other Guys (v.1)

Jesus appoints dozens of disciples to go forth as emissaries proclaiming that the Kingdom of God has come near (vs.9, 11). Jesus does not provide mission-specific training for them; they are sent carrying a simple message (cf. Luke 8:38-39; John 4:28-30)

2. The Purpose: The Plentiful Harvest (v.2)

The deficit of willing gospel workers accentuates the magnitude of the task that Jesus gives them (cf. Luke 9:57-62). While He used the imagery of the coming harvest in different ways (cf. Matt 13:30, 36ff; John 4:35ff), Jesus' illustration communicates the urgency of the mission (cf. Prov 10:5).

3. The Peril: The Certainty of Wolves (v.3)

The message of Christ promises peace with God, but those who proclaim it must be prepared for opposition as they proclaim it (Acts 8:54ff; cf. 1 Cor 1:18). Jesus has shown them that they will certainly experience resistance (Luke 4:28ff) and He has also shown them how to respond when it does (Luke 6:20-35).

4. The Particulars (vs.4-7)

A. Go Without Delay (v.4a)

Jesus instructs them to go, and to go quickly. They are to bring no extra provisions for their journey and only to take what they were already wearing. This is not a mandate for all gospel work (cf. Luke 22:35-38), but it does force these ambassadors to learn to trust fully in God's unsecured provision.

B. Go Without Distraction (v.4b)

The task was so urgent that they were not even to engage in cultural niceties with those with whom they came into contact on the road (cf. 2 Kings 4:29).

C. Go Without Discrimination (vs.5-7)

The disciples were to accept the offer of hospitality from only one household in each city that they entered and remain there until their work in that town was completed (vs.8-11). They were to be gracious (v.5) and grateful (v.7) with any display of hospitality while staying in that home.