

The Gospel of Luke

The Rejoicing of the Disciples

Luke 10:17-20

1. Circumstantial Joy (vs.17-19)

A. The Experience (v.17)

Though they undoubtedly experienced some resistance and rejection (cf. John 15:18ff), the disciples enjoyed surprising success. The fact that they exercised power over demons means that some of the towns had received them and the message that they were preaching (cf. Luke 10:10).

B. The Affirmation (v.18)

Jesus' statement testifies to the truthfulness of their claim. Also, by referring directly to Satan, Jesus expands the impact of their ministry from a few local exorcisms into the overall battle against the power of the devil (John 12:31; Eph 2:2; 6:12).

C. The Cause (v.19)

The authority that the disciples exercised over the demons was granted by Jesus Himself ('in Your name', v.17). Satan does not control the world of nature, but he does exercise authority over the world of sinful men (John 17:15; 1 John 5:19). Jesus then articulates both the authority and the protection that He has given to the disciples (cf. Luke 9:40-41).

2. Abiding Joy (v.20)

A. The Personal Nature of Salvation

Salvation is personal, not impersonal. God has not merely known that some people would be saved, He has always perfectly known the identity of every person who would ever be saved (Matt 25:34; John 6:38-40; Acts 13:48; Rom 8:29; Eph 1:4; 2 Thess 2:13ff).

B. The Completed Nature of Salvation

Christ's work in accomplishing salvation was completed once and for all (John 19:30; 1 Pet 3:18; Heb 9:28). His accomplishment of salvation was so certain that God's own benefitted from it even before it happened in time (Rom 3:25-26; Rev 13:8).

C. The Incorruptible Location of Salvation

Heaven is the most secure location in all of the universe; not even the normal effects of a fallen creation impact the integrity of the least thing in heaven (Matt 6:19-20). The disciples are assured that God has recorded their names in heaven (cf. John 10:27-29).