

The Gospel of Luke

The Kingdom Has Come Near

Luke 10:8-16

1. Christ's Instructions for the Mission (vs.8-12)

The seventy disciples were sent out ahead of Jesus to the towns where He would come (v.1). They were to be completely dependent upon God's provision as well as to be content with what He provided (vs.4-7). Following a recent refusal (Luke 9:52-53), Jesus prepares His disciples for either reception or rejection.

A. Reception and Blessing (vs.8-9)

If the disciples are received they were to remain in the first home offering hospitality (v.7) and eat whatever food is provided. The disciples are not to regard this prolonged accommodation as an imposition, but as worthy recompense. Their time in the town is to be marked by preaching the message of Christ and the display of God's power by healing the sick (cf. v.17).

B. Rejection and Condemnation (vs.10-12)

Christ had already experienced significant rejection from the people (Luke 4:28-30; 9:52-53). Any town's rejection of His message was to be publically condemned by the disciples (cf. Mark 6:11; Acts 13:51).

2. The Message: The Kingdom of God has Come Near (vs.9, 11)

'Kingdom of God' is Luke's way of referring to the fulfillment of God's plan, and preaching the good news of this kingdom was one of the purposes for which Christ came (Luke 4:43). Prior to Christ, the law and the prophets were proclaimed to the people, but since then, the good news of the kingdom of God has been proclaimed (Luke 16:16).

3. The Principle of Proportional Judgment (vs.12-15)

Sodom and Gomorrah (cf. Matt 10:15) and Tyre and Sidon were all gentile cities proverbially known for their wickedness as well as for the ultimate and merciless judgment that God brought to bear upon them (Ezek 28:20ff). However, the Jewish cities which witnessed and benefited from the ministry of Jesus would fare worse because their sin was worse (cf. Luke 12:47-48; Heb 10:29)

4. The Messenger's Significance (v.16)

The disciples were sent out knowing that they were representing Jesus Himself. Receiving the disciples' message was the same as receiving the message preached to them by Christ Himself; rejecting their message was an act of rejecting both Jesus and Father also (cf. 1 John 2:23).