

LUKE Lesson 25

Following Jesus (Luke 10:1-24)

23 November 2018

- Vs 1** Seventy additional disciples were appointed by the Lord. Seventy is a number connected with Israel. (Exod 1:5, 24:1, Num 11:16, Jer 25:12, Ezek 8:11, Dan 9:24). The 12 apostles represented the 12 patriarchs. The 70 disciples represent the 70 elders of Israel. The Lord sent them out in pairs (compare Gen 7:9). They went **“into every city and place”** to prepare the people for the Lord’s arrival.
- Vs 2** The harvest truly is great. There’s not a lack of souls ready to repent and trust Jesus. There’s a lack of laborers willing to go out and do the work. **“Pray ye therefore.”** Your work will be hindered if you fail to pray first. Pray that God would send out more laborers. Notice that it’s the Lord’s harvest, not ours. Let the Lord keep track of the numbers while you continue to labor.
- Vs 3** When we serve the Lord, we are to go out as **“lambs among wolves.”** When unsaved people act like wolves toward us, we need to remember that we’re lambs and behave accordingly. Let the world see the difference in you. Let them see the Lamb of God in you. Don’t get involved in sinful debates (2 Tim 2:24, Php 2:14, Rom 1:29, 2 Cor 12:20). Remember that you’re a lamb and be prepared for abuse.
- Vs 4** **“Salute no man by the way”** doesn’t mean that you should be rude and unsociable, but that you need to remember why you’re out there; to tell them about Jesus. These disciples were to give their time and attention wholly to their work, and not engage in social enjoyments.
- Vs 5** **“First say, Peace be to this house.”** Don’t go out prepared to argue. Go in the spirit of peace, hoping to get along and leave a good impression of a child of God (Pr 23:7).
- Vs 6** If you’ve done your part right (establishing peaceful relations) and people still choose to fight with you, go in peace knowing that you did right; you didn’t start the fight and you didn’t engage in their debate.
- Vs 7** They were to find a place to stay (room and board) and do their work from there (see Mt 10:11). They were told to eat whatever they were served (see 1 Tim 4:4, 1 Cor 10:27). Politely accept charity and it may contribute to winning that person’s soul to Christ.

“The labourer is worthy of his hire.” A servant of God shouldn’t push away gifts that people offer them out of gratitude for their ministry. This principle is repeated by Paul (1 Tim 5:17). Along with this principle is *“You reap what you sow”* (Job 4:8, Psa 126:5, Hos 10:12-13, Prov 11:25, Mt 7:2).

- 8-14** For verses 8-11 see notes on chapter 9, verse 5. —In verse 12, **“That day”** is a reference to the White Throne Judgment after the Millennium (vs 14). When the Old Testament Prophets spoke of “that day,” they were speaking of the Second Advent at the end of the Tribulation (see Isa. 2:11–12).

Jesus is rebuking cities that rejected Him. Many mighty works were done in those cities and they will be judged for their rejection. (See also Mt 12:41). According to the Bible, rejecting Christ (Acts 4:12) is worse than pagan idolatry (Tyre and Sidon) and sex perversion (Sodom).

Vs 15 Jesus said, **“Thou shalt be thrust down to hell.”** Modern bible translators didn’t like that, so they didn’t translate the Greek word “hades” to “hell.” (RSV, NASV, ESV, NKJV). “Hell” is clearly the correct translation since Sodom and Tyre is in the context. Sodom suffers **“the vengeance of eternal fire”** (Jude 7). Tyre is brought down to the pit (Ezek 26:20) like the Antichrist. The pit is hell (Isa 14:15), which is **“a lake of fire burning with brimstone”** (Rev 19:20).

Vs 16 If someone hears your witness, they are hearing Jesus Christ. You are an ambassador for Christ, serving **“in Christ’s stead”** (2 Cor. 5:20) and **“in the person of Christ”** (2 Cor 2:10).

If someone despises your witness, they are despising Christ. (John 15:18, Acts 9:4)

17-18 Jesus **“beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven”** (vs 18). Satan’s days are numbered (along with his devils). Satan falls 5 times in scripture:

1. From the third heaven (throne of God) to the second heaven (outer space) (Ezek 28:14-16).
2. From the second heaven to the first heaven (our atmosphere) to become the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph 2:2).
3. From the first heaven down to earth during the Tribulation (Rev 12:7-12). (Jesus refers to this one).
4. From the earth to the bottomless pit at the Second Advent (Rev 20:1-3) (end of Trib).
5. From the bottomless pit to the lake of fire (Rev 20:10) (White Throne Judgment at the end of the Millennium).

Vs 19 Serpents and scorpions here refer to the Devil and those controlled by him. Satan means “enemy” or “adversary.” Jesus gave His disciples power over “serpents.” Satan is a serpent (Rev 12:9). He gave them power over “scorpions;” rebellious men who speak against God (Ezek 2:6). The doctrinal meaning is prophetic and applies to the 144,000 evangelists (Rev 7:3-8) who literally have power over serpents and scorpions (Rev 12:9-17, 9:3-10). (See also Psalm 91:13).

Vs 20 Power over devils is exciting, but having your name written in heaven is better (Rev 21:27).

Vs 21 Jesus rejoiced and thanked His Father for hiding truth from those who would reject it. The chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees were such men. This principle of hiding truth and rewarding faith is a theme found throughout the Bible.

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| 1 Thes 2:13 | These believers received God’s word as truth. |
| Jeremiah 9:23 | The Lord warns men who glory in their worldly wisdom. |
| Isaiah 28:9 | The ones who will understand doctrine are simple like children. |
| Isaiah 29:10-14 | The Lord will close your eyes to truth when you make excuses for not wanting it. |
| Proverbs 3:5-6 | Stop trusting your own understanding and let God show you some things. |
| 1 Cor 1:18-28 | The preaching of the cross: deemed foolish by unbelievers, but powerful by believers.
See also Psalm 62:9, 1 Cor 3:18-20 |

Vs 22 You can’t know the Father except through the Son. Any religion that rejects the Son can’t possibly know God. This principle reveals the foolishness of the ecumenical movement (joining different religions together) because many religions reject the true Jesus.

23-24 The disciples were blessed to see the fulfillment of O.T. prophecy; the First Coming of the Messiah. We have a greater blessing (Jn 20:29, 1 Pet 1:8-9).