

Lesson 22

Evangelism

Icebreaker:

What pictures or images come to your mind when you hear the word “evangelism”?

Reading The Scripture:

Matthew 10:1-15, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-16

The Twelve Are Sent Out to Preach the Good News

Matthew 10:1-15, Mark 6:7-13, Luke 9:1-6

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible,
authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: “Follow Me: A Message from God”, a Journey with Jesus)

And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-gatherer; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him. These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans; but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.; freely you received, freely give. Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. And into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it; and abide there until you go away. And as you enter the house, give it your greeting. And if the house is worthy, let your greeting of peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your greeting of peace return to you. And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet. Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable **for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah** in the day of judgment, than for that city.

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Another way of saying , “God is ruling here and now.”

Greeting. “Shalom aleikhem” or “peace be upon you”. The word Shalom not only conveys the idea of peace but also well-being, wholeness, health, success, integrity, and comfort.

The land of Sodom and Gomorrah. An area at the southern end of the Dead Sea which God destroyed in the time of Abraham because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

The Sending of the Seventy

Matthew 11:20-24 and Luke 10:1-16

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Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. **Go your ways;** behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way. And whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' And if a man of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him; but if not, it will return to you. And stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. And whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat what is set before you; and heal those in it who are sick, and

say to them, **'The kingdom of God has come near** to you.' But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you. The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me."

Go your ways. Go to the city to which I have assigned to you.

Greet no one in the way. Don't stop to engage in idle conversation.

That the Kingdom of God has come near. In effect they were saying, "We have come to you as directed by God, under His authority, with His power, to accomplish His purpose."

Group Discussion:

1. Who was the most influential person in your decision to follow Christ?
2. What was that person's relationship to you?
3. What did that person do which influenced you?
4. Describe how that person made you feel.
5. What did the person say to influence you?

The Commands:

1. Do not go in the way of the Gentiles.
2. Do not enter any city of the Samaritans.
3. Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
4. Go to every city to which I am about to come.
5. As you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand".
6. Heal the sick.
7. Say to them, "the kingdom of God has come near you."
8. Raise the dead.
9. Cleanse the lepers.
10. Cast out demons.
11. Freely you received, freely give.
12. Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts.
13. Do not acquire a bag for your journey.
14. Do not acquire even two tunics.
15. Do not acquire sandals.
16. Do not acquire a staff.
17. Greet no one on the way.
18. Into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it.
19. Abide there until you go away.
20. Eat what is put before you.
21. As you enter the house, give it your greeting, "peace be to this house!"
22. If the house is worthy (a man of peace is there), let your greeting of peace come upon it.
23. If the house is not worthy (a man of peace is not there), let your peace return to you.

24. Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet.
25. Go into its streets and say, “Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.”

The Lesson:

The Scripture states that Jesus sent out ambassadors twice to care for the people before giving the “Great Commission”. The first time He sent out the twelve apostles for about a six-month period of time¹ only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Several months later He sent seventy other disciples for about a two-month period of time² to all the cities to which He was about to come. The instructions He gave both groups were essentially the same and very, very specific.

Prayer preceded both ventures. Everyone petitioned God to send workers into the harvest. Then Jesus commissioned those who would go. He sent them out in pairs, so that every word of God would be confirmed in the mouth of two or more witnesses. He told them to preach that men should repent³ and to proclaim that the kingdom of God was at hand.⁴ And He told them to heal people, so that their testimony would not rest merely in words alone but with the power of God from on high. Jesus gave these ambassadors power to cast out demons and to heal every kind of sickness and disease. He sent the “twelve” to Jews only and the “seventy” to the cities, which He would visit.⁵ When He gave the “Great Commission” to His disciples it included Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.

The instructions Jesus gave concerning the journey to their destinations seemed to be wrapped in a sense of urgency. His disciples were not to make any formal preparations for the journey. They were not to acquire anything for their journey or for their support such as money, clothing, luggage or food. And they were not to schmooze, chitchat or have idle conversation with anyone along the way. This instruction would remind the ambassadors of the story in 1 Kings 13: God sent a prophet on a mission with specific instructions about not stopping to eat and drink along the way. He disobeyed and died immediately.

Upon entering a city Jesus’ ambassadors were to find a “man of peace”.⁶ They were to stay in his home and eat his food during the duration of their stay in that city. Upon entering his house they were to greet the people with “shalom aleikhem” or “peace be upon you”. The word “shalom” conveys not only the idea of peace but also safety, well-being, health, contentment, success, comfort, integrity and wholeness. When this greeting is given, then God extends His peace and favor to the people of that home. If Jesus’ ambassadors are rejected by that home, God withdraws His peace and favor.

¹ Probably from October 29AD to April 30 AD.

² Probably October and November of 30 AD.

³ Repent - (the Greek word metanoiete) – change your mind – have a change of heart.

⁴ The kingdom of God is at hand is used in a couple of ways. First, it declares that God is ruling here and now. Secondly, it is saying that the kingdom is near because its power and authority is contained within the person making the statement.

⁵ This is the precursor to the Great Commission. It extends the mission of the disciples to everywhere that the Lord may come. At that moment in time it would include cities in the Galilee, Samaria and Judea. However, this could be taken to mean, any city that Jesus might visit at that time or in the future.

⁶ “Man of peace” is a term that denotes a person who is humble, hospitable and has a great respect for God (a God-fearer). He would not necessarily have to be Jewish or Christian to qualify.

To give credibility to His ambassadors, Jesus gave them the power to heal every kind of sickness and disease. They were able to cleanse lepers and cast out demons. After someone was healed they were to declare to them, “The kingdom of God is at hand”. With the power to heal came an additional responsibility. Jesus’ ambassadors were not permitted to take any money or compensation for the healing, for freely they received the gift from God therefore, they should give it away freely. This would remind the ambassadors of the story of Naaman, the leper, from 2 Kings 5. The prophet Elisha freely healed Naaman of his leprosy, but Elisha’s servant Gehazi ran after Naaman to receive some compensation for the healing. As a result, Elisha put Naaman’s leprosy on Gehazi.

If a home or city refused to receive or heed their words, Jesus’ ambassadors were to go out into the streets and shake the dust off their feet. As they did this they were to say, “*Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.*” Historically, Jewish people would shake the ritually impure dust of a Gentile (non-Jewish) city from their feet before leaving it and returning to the land of Israel. Jesus wants His ambassadors to convey this idea to those who rejected them. That they, being Jews, would not receive the word of God so henceforth they would be as Gentiles to them. This concept was demonstrated in Acts 13:51. Along with this idea comes the concept of blood guiltlessness. When people reject the word of God then those who have preached it are innocent when God brings judgment against the people who rejected Him. This concept is clearly demonstrated in Acts 18:6.

The Point of the Lesson:

According to Jesus, this is how you should evangelize.

Application:

- Pray every day for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest.
- Preach the gospel to at least one individual this next week trying to stay as close to how Jesus said to do it.