

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #170

(Note: You can read the online Newspaper edition of this post [here](#).)

Jesus Trains and Sends Out the 70 For Ministry

Jesus Selects and Prepares 70 Workers

LK 10.1-3

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them,

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. I command you to ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

³ "I command you to get going! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	Near Jerusalem
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	C. Jesus Trains And Sends Out the 70 For Ministry
Title	I. Jesus Selects and Prepares 70 Workers

COMMENT:

Before Jesus sent the twelve apostles out on his third tour of Galilee, two by two in Galilee, he first commanded them to pray for the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers (MT 9.37-38). After they had spent some time praying in the latter part of the second tour, they became those workers.

Likewise, when Jesus sent out the 70, he appointed them with precisely the same command to pray, word for word. The 70 knew they were going to be the answer to their own prayers.

This repetition of the "prayer for workers" command is highly significant. It meant that the twelve prayed not only for themselves, but they were also a vital part of Jesus' work of raising up another 70 gospel preachers. The apostles joined Jesus in ministry through their prayers.

In the same way, the 70 prayed for themselves as they prayed for workers, but they also prayed for future workers as well. On the day of Pentecost 120 people were filled with the Spirit and began to proclaim the good news about Jesus. This was part of the answer to the prayers of the apostles and the 70 for more workers.

Clearly, prayer is the beginning of all public ministry in Jesus' mind. This was his practice. His ministry began with 40 days of prayer and fasting. Prayer was his command to the Twelve, to the 70, then the 120 in the Upper Room. It is also his command to us today.

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APPLICATION:

Prayer for workers should be a vital part of our daily prayer life.

How can you increase your prayer for workers to be sent out into the harvest fields, including yourself?

One suggestion is to pray for evangelism among all the nations of the world over a one year period through "Operation World." Here is [a link to their website](#).

===== Special Additional Content today! =====

NOTE: Some Greek manuscripts number the workers that Jesus sent at 72. We prefer 70, because of the Old Testament precedent of YHWH calling 70 men to assist Moses in the work of leadership in Numbers 11.16. Because Jesus is YHWH, it makes sense that he would call 70 men in the same way in his earthly ministry.

A detailed overview of the Later Judean and Perea Ministry is included below.

OVERVIEW:

Today's reading begins an extended section of material in Luke's gospel, from Ch. 10.1 to 19.27. After ending the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem on Sept. 17th, Jesus went to some unknown location in Judea. Many disciples were following him at this point--enough to appoint 70 of them to go out and minister in his name. Jesus trained them, then sent them out into the regions of Judea and Perea to do advance work for his own visit that would follow.

Just as Jesus made three systematic tours of Galilee during his ministry there, over the next six months he would personally make his way through the towns and village of Judea and Perea to present his gospel to all the people, and to prepare the Jewish people for his formal presentation of himself as the Messiah in Jerusalem during Passion Week. Jesus was thorough and pragmatic in his ministry planning and execution.

Luke treats the entire section from 9.51 to 19.27 as a wandering travelogue, covering roughly seven months on the road with Jesus. That makes sense because throughout these many months both Jesus and his group of roughly 120 disciples did not stay in any one location for more than a few days. It was truly an extended road trip.

Luke Chapters 10-19 make up our virtual solitary source of information about Jesus' ministry in Judea and Perea. Luke wrote exclusively about what occurred outside Jerusalem, while he was "on the road." John, on the other hand, concentrated on what Jesus did in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles and Dedication (7.12 to 10.39). He also gave a brief description of the Perea ministry in 10.40-42. The raising of Lazarus, in Bethany, completed his presentation of this period.

While we are not sure of the precise locations for most of the events in this "road trip" period, we do know that in the three months between the Feasts of Tabernacles (Sept.) and Dedication (Dec.), Jesus concentrated his time primarily in Judea. Luke 10.1 to 13.35 address this period.

After the Dedication Feast Jesus sojourned primarily on the east side of the Jordan river, in Perea. Luke 14.1 to 17.10 covers this period, from mid-Dec. to mid-March.

Jesus then made one final trip to Jerusalem for the fourth and final Passover of his ministry, moving all the way north to the border between Samaria and Galilee, and then down the Jordan river valley, through Jericho, and up to Bethany just outside of Jerusalem. Luke 17.11 to 19.27 describe our Lord's truly final journey to Jerusalem.

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Some of the most famous events and parables in Luke's gospel grace his "on the road with Jesus" section (Ch 10-19), such as the story of "Mary and Martha," the "Good Samaritan," the "Prodigal Son," and "Zachaeus." Jesus intensified his discipleship training to the maximum degree in these final months on earth with his disciples. It is a portion of Jesus' life we should know well, if we would be his disciple today.