

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #171

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

Jesus Trains the 70 for Ministry Luke 10.4-9

4 "I command you not to take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

5 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 If someone who lives in peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.

7 I command you to abide there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. I command you not to move around from house to house.

8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you.

9 I command you to heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you...permanently!'"

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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	2. Jesus Trains the 70 For Ministry

COMMENT:

Jesus' training for the 70 was exactly the same, in abbreviated form, as he gave earlier to the Twelve before sending them out (MT 10).

The Lord held to consistent principles of ministry.

The Greek shows us that the 70 were different from the Twelve. That is, the 70 did not include the apostles. Their specific ministry of healing, proclaiming the nearness of the Kingdom, and preparing each town and village for Jesus' later arrival was the same as the earlier mission of the Twelve in Galilee, but the 70 did not have the same unique authority as eye-witnesses of the entire ministry of Jesus, and long-term role in the Church as the Twelve.

The 70 broke down into 35 teams of two. Therefore, each team probably visited one or two locations in order to cover all the towns and villages of Judea and Perea.

Jesus had given considerable thought and preparation to the mission of the 70 in order to coordinate such an extensive, coordinated evangelistic campaign over a large geographic area. The total time of ministry was two to three weeks for each team, depending upon the location of their particular assignment from Jesus.

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The sending of the 70 shows us that Jesus had been conducting extensive discipleship training with a large group of faithful disciples in Galilee.

The Twelve plus the 70 made 82 trained disciples. In addition, there was a group of women who traveled with the disciples, too. Since Jesus selected the 70 out of larger group of male disciples, there had to be another twenty or more other disciples around Jesus as well.

All told, there appears to have been at least 120 of Jesus' most intimate and faithful followers traveling with him as full-time disciples during the six months "on the road" with Jesus in his Later Judean and Perea ministry.

These core disciples accompanied Jesus into Jerusalem for Passion Week, were witnesses of his resurrection, and made up the 120 people that received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Thus, they formed the nucleus of the Church in Jerusalem.

This shows us how important the Twelve, the 70, the women, and other unnamed male disciples who made up the 120 were in Jesus' plans for the Church, and his disciple-making mission to the world. They were the tiny "mustard seed" of the kingdom that he was counting on to grow throughout the whole world.

APPLICATION:

Jesus chose to call and use ordinary people in ministry. It was HIS grace, gifting, and power working through them. He turned the world upside down with just 120 disciples, through the power of his Spirit and Word.

The only criteria he required for service were humility, faith, and faithfulness. These traits are available to us all.

Are you as full of the Holy Spirit's power as Jesus designed you to be?

Do faith, humility, and faithfulness characterize your willingness to be used by him in ministry?

What area of your relationship with Jesus do you need to work on in order to be more effective in serving him?