

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #172

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

Jesus Prepares the 70 to Handle Rejection

Luke 10.10-16

10 "I command that when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'We are wiping even the dust of your town from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be certain of this: The kingdom of God has come near you... permanently.'

12 "I tell you, it will be more tolerable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

16 "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

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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	On the Road in Judea
Timeline	September (Month 31)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VI: Jesus' Later Judean Ministry
	C. Jesus Trains And Sends Out the 70 For Ministry
Title	3. Jesus Prepares the 70 to Handle Rejection

COMMENT:

Jesus ended his training of the 70 by preparing them for rejection of their ministry, as well as acceptance. He spoke of "woes" upon Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida for rejecting his own ministry in Galilee, in spite of all the sign-miracles he had performed. Since Jesus himself was rejected, his disciples could be sure of the same. It is the price of ministry. The 70 needed to understand this truth before embarking on their mission.

Jesus had given his disciples the perfect example of a loving, divine response to rejection throughout his ministry. He had never taken it personally, even though it often took the form of intensely personal attack against him. Jesus continued to speak and act in the best interests of his rejectors. He remained open to fellowship with them, and prayed for them. He would end up dying for them. He expected all of his disciples to follow his glorious example of loving his enemies.

When their message was repudiated, Jesus commanded his disciples to issue a clear warning of the consequences when they left that location. Wiping the dust from their feet was a graphic illustration of how the people's decision to reject Jesus as the Messiah meant that they would be rejected at the final judgement. Warning people,

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and showing them the consequences of their actions is love in action toward those who reject the gospel. Love seeks to protect others from harm, even when they do not want to hear about it.

Jesus concluded his training by reminding the 70 that they, like the Twelve, were identified with Jesus in ministry. Those who accepted them were actually receiving Christ, and those who rejected them were in fact rejecting him as well. Ministry was not about them; it was all about him. Jesus reminded them that they were identified with him in the same way that he was identified with his Father. What amazing grace!

APPLICATION:

Ministering the gospel in Jesus' Name is never easy. Some will believe and receive Jesus; others will reject him by refusing to believe the message, and the messenger.

We need to focus on the reality that we are one with Jesus in ministry, even as he is one with the Father. Keeping our eyes on Jesus, not the results, is the key to consistency and faithfulness in ministry.

How do you tend to focus on the results of ministry, more than Jesus?

What can you do to keep your eyes more on Jesus--especially when your ministry is rejected by others?