

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #173

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

## The 70 Return to Jesus With Great Joy Luke 10.17-20

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons continue to submit themselves to us in your name."

18 He replied, *"I was looking at Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you permanent authority to continue to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; absolutely nothing will ever harm you.*

20 *"However, I command you not to keep on rejoicing that the spirits keep submitting to you, but continually rejoice that your names are written permanently in heaven."*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. 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, Somewhere 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	4. The 70 Return to Jesus With Great Joy

### COMMENT:

After the 35 teams of two disciples each had ministered in their assigned locations in Judea and Perea they returned to Jesus for a time of debriefing.

The 70 were overjoyed to report great manifestations of power in their ministries. The most demanding single aspect of ministry is probably the work of casting out demons. Jesus made it look effortless, but the truth is that it is always an intense spiritual battle. The Twelve had failed to cast out a demon when they were in the region of Caesarea Philippi, just after the Transfiguration (DJN #128, #129).

The fact that the 70 had seen consistent victory over demons in their outreach was a sure indication of the mighty power of the Holy Spirit working through them. They were filled with joy in being so used of God.

Jesus had envisioned this outcome by faith, and prayed continually for it while they were out on their mission. Because the 70 were identified with him in ministry, as he was with his Father, his own authority over the devil, demons, and disease was fully effective in each of his sent-out disciples. His power was theirs. It would always be so.

This is significant because there is no apparent difference between the ministry of Jesus, the apostles, and the 70. In other words, the apostles had a unique function as eyewitnesses of the entire ministry of Jesus--from beginning to end--but the authority, gifting, and resources for ministry were the same for the twelve and the 70. These were

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all based on the disciple's oneness with Jesus. And so it remains today. Every disciple is a Spirit-empowered witness of Jesus, and minister through the gifting of the the same Spirit.

Back to the 70. Jesus took this opportunity to give them, and all of us an important commandment regarding our joy. They were rejoicing because they had seen what Jesus' authority had accomplished through them. However, Jesus said that they must be careful not to make that their primary ground for rejoicing. Rather, the permanent, never-ending source of a disciple's joy is the eternal fact that our names have been written in heaven. Our identity as children of God is secure. Our joy is not primarily in what God does through us, but what he is to us, and in us.

### APPLICATION:

For those who believe in Jesus, our name has been written down in God's book, registering us as joint heirs with Jesus through our union with him. Our relationship with Jesus causes all of his riches as the eternal Son of God to become available to us, freely. He shares everything he possesses with us--he makes it our own, as much as it is his. This is the ground of rejoicing we have in him!

The circumstances of our lives change constantly. Happiness ebbs and flows. But our joy in Jesus is permanent, because our names are forever registered in heaven as belonging to him. Every other source of happiness fluctuates, and is certain to end.

Therefore, Jesus' permanent command is to find our joy in the infinite riches of our relationship with him.

*How can you focus your mind and heart on rejoicing in Jesus today?*