

**Go, I Am Sending You**

- **Vs. 1-3a-you.** That sounds awful lot like what J said/did back in ch 9. Here, in 10, but back in 9: **“J...called the 12 tog... and he sent them out to proclaim the kngdm/God” (1-2).** So on 2 diff occns, J dispatchs mssnry teams & sends them out preach gos his behalf. Diffrc: 1<sup>st</sup> time, only the 12; only apstls, prs, fulltime called wrkrs. But here, not just 12. Here we have sizable group of lay ldrs, faithful follwrs/J who don't have the formal training or synod certfctn; not fulltime prs/called wrkrs. But they bel in J; and J has a job for them. Sends them out on mini mission trip; might only lasted few wks; but entrusts them w/task of sharing gos. I think this really imp! The work of evnglsm/ outrch: not just for prs/trs. We all have role to play in sharing gos, whthr as called wrkr or ch membr. So today, as J sends out 72, hear him speaking to you when says: Go, I am sending you (GSY).
- Now, when J said GSY to these 72, he'd just begun final descent into Jrslm. Few vss before: **“As the time apprhd for him be tkn up into hvn, J resolutely set out for Jrslm” (9:51).** So J knows he's on last leg journey toward city dth/res. And he really wants gos spread thruout cntryside. So as they journey thru farm fields/Judea, J uses agrcltrl imagery and says: **vs. 2a.** Not talking re wheat/barley. Talking re souls/mankind, billions ppl on this earth, all of whom J loves & wants bring hvn, all of whom need hear gos so can bel & be saved, every person who's ever lived, ever will live – **“harvest plentiful!”** It was plentiful for 72 just going thru Judea. Think re vast fields/ppl today who need hear gos: city, state, cntry, wrld. J's wrds here will always be true: **vs. 2a.** Ratio of mssn-minded Xians to unbels'll always be ovrwhlmng. And work'll always be urgent. When a crop is ready be harvstd out of field, needs be gathrd right away; otherwise rot in field & go to waste. Ppl are dying & going hell ev day. So we need wrkrs, right now, for urgent work of harvstng souls into God's kngdm!
- What can we do? Pray. **Vs. 2.** J's first instrctn for us all: pray. Pray: that souls our fellow mankind'd be touched by gos; they'd hear/bel good news of Xp crucfd/risen fr dead for our forgvnss/salvtn; that HS'd convert them from unbelf to faith; that LJ'd move hrts his follwrs to get to work in his harvest field. Some will become calld wrkrs (prs/tchr/prncpls/mssnrs/stf minstrs); others'll become strong Xian lay ldrs: in their congs, fams, communts. But they'll all use unique gifts God's given them to work in God's harvest field – which, by way, is not just across planet! The harvest field is across street, fam tree, cubicle/hallway at work. Don't have to go to bush/Africa to find ppl drowning in unbelf, sinking in sin, grasping for the life preserver that has already rescued you, which you, now safe in ark/Ch, get to throw down to others who are drowning. Pray for wrkrs; **vs. 2b.**
- And get to work. J: **vs. 3a.** There: called wrkrs & lay wrkrs – both imp. When PNH & I gradtd Sem in 2009, actually more grads than pastrl positions avlb in synod. Means sevrl our clsmts had to wait wks/mos before position opened & ch needed pr. That was 13 yrs ago. Now that supply/demand has compltly revrsd! Today, over 150 pastrl vacncs thruout Wis Synod. Classes gradtng fr Sem: half what were when PNH & I gradtd. Retirmnts cont out# assgnmnts. Same true: tchrs/prncpls in our synod. And it's not only in WELS. Xian denoms across wrld are seeing decreases in their base of ministers.
- But here we see: it's not just to calld wrkrs, or to 12 apstls, that J: GSY. In today's gos J dispatches 72 lay wrkrs – regular ch-going, Xp-loving Xians, just like you, and says GSY.
- And he's got whole list instrctns for you for this mission. Some of this applies only to the 1<sup>st</sup> cent 72; but there's lot lessons we can learn here. **Vs. 4a.** Why not? Bec Lord'll provide for you; he's going give you what need; trust in him. **Vs. 4b.** Sounds rude. Just means: be focused; don't get distracted; remem urgency/mssn. The 1<sup>st</sup> cent 72'd be staying in ppl's homes; so J: **“When you enter a house... vs. 7-8.** 2 lessons here. 1) J says it's apprprt for mssn wrkrs be paid. That's what we do here at SJ: we pay our prs/tchrs. Now, I didn't get into the ministry for the \$; I became pr bec I love Lord & want share his word. But if I had to work a fulltime job smwhere else to make a living, that wouldn't leave me w/much time to carry out pastrl min here at this cong. Some chs do that: they have their prs split time btwn ch & some other job. Not a great setup. An apprprt salary allows pr focus full attn on min. **“Wrkr deserves his wages”** – that's 1<sup>st</sup> lesson. 2<sup>nd</sup>) those wrkrs should be grateful for income they

receive. **Vs. 8.** I remem a Sem prof warning us: fastest way to shipwreck your min, bellyache re salary or parsonage. Offerings given in response to gos to support Lord's work are also used to pay ministers. So it's imp that Lord's wrkrs are grateful, satisfied, and content.

- J gave special pwr to the 72. **Vs. 9;** later, **vs. 17b.** These 72 got to perf mrcls! J hasn't given us that pwr today. I've held ppl's hands as passed fr this life to next, but didn't have pwr heal them. But we can tell ppl re the one who does – the great physcn of body/soul, who someday'll **“transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body”** (Php 3:21).
- J also warns: **vs. 3.** Point here: wrld hates gos; and if it hates gos, also hates those who share gos. You are J's little lamb; he is your GS; but your GS is sending you out into a wrld/wolves. On night J died, said: **“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you... If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also... They will treat you this way because of my name”** (Jn 15:18-21). The Xian msg will always be met with oppstn. J says we should expect that.
- Which brings us to this stark reality: there are only 2 types/ppl in this wrld: bels & unbels. Today we may not wipe the dust off our feet at unbels; but we do warn them, w/God's law, that sin seps us fr God and evntly leads to hell. We also reassure bels, w/God's gos, that our baptsml conxn to Xp's dth & res means our names written in hvn, in what Rev calls **“Lmb's bk/life.”** There are bels & unbels. And J: **vs. 16.** So it's really not you they're believing or rejecting; it's J.
- And finly, we can never forget: the One who sends us out to do his mssn work has already won vctry over Stn forever. **Vs. 18.** From his divine perspcv J can look at a timeless snapshot of world history and see the old evil foe, who now means deadly woe, whose dread arms in fight are deep guile and great might – J can see this world's prince defeated, fallen from hvn. He's judged; the deed is done. The kngdm's ours forever. Nothing can change the fact that Xp died & rose, won vctry & redeemed his ppl. And guess what? He wants you to spread the news!
- So GSY – not just apstls/prs/called wrkrs, but you! Join the 72! As Xians we really only have 2 goals in this life: get to hvn and get as many ppl there w/us as we can. **Vs. 2a.** So pray for more workers, and get to work.

### **Luke 10:1-12, 16-20**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

<sup>5</sup> “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

<sup>8</sup> “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

<sup>16</sup> “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

<sup>18</sup> He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”