

NIV Luke 10:1 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. 2 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. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not 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 a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. 8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Opening Prayer: NIV Psalm 19:12 (Oh Lord, our rock and our redeemer) Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression. 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

Introduction: Graduation speeches try to send the graduating class off with energy and excitement into the real world and ultimately to live a happy and successful life. How successful are the speeches? Here are a couple graduation quotes from famous people:

"Follow your passion, stay true to yourself, never follow someone else's path unless you're in the woods and you're lost and you see a path then by all means you should follow that." Ellen Degeneres

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." Steve Jobs

When a group of 72 people made it through Jesus early instruction on the Kingdom of God, he had one last chance, one last moment to empower them and instruct them to change enemies of God into friends of God. Listen to Jesus as he empowers and instructs you to change a world of sinners:

Ready Set Go...for the Kingdom of God!

Part 1. Don't Let Your Resources be Redirected.

Part 2. Instead Focus on Friendship with God.

Part 1. Resources Redirected?

We meet up with Jesus this weekend as he makes a beeline for Jerusalem and the cross. Many people in the country villages of the north of Palestine were upset with Jesus for going to the cross. Many other people were unable to follow Jesus because it would mean giving up pleasures, leaving family and friends behind. Now we see in Luke 10 that Jesus has found and called many more people to follow him on the way to the cross. At least 72 believers were found to do Kingdom work, the Lord's mission of saving sinners.

V. 2 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. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves."

Did you catch their first assignment as fellow workers in God's Kingdom and for God's Kingdom? Pray for more workers! The Son of God came to earth to save the whole world from the shame of sin and the dead end of death. He was determined to pay the full ransom price for the entire world, the entire amount of something he would drink down to the last drop on the cross. Yet there remains a vital part for the sinner to

receive that payment for themselves. The individual sinners of the world need to hear the good news of peace with God. The apostle Paul said it this way:

NIV Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." {13 Joel 2:32} 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" {15 Isaiah 52:7}

The enemies of our Lord's Kingdom are not deaf. The evil angels heard God's promise to Adam and Eve, to Abraham, through all the prophets like Isaiah. The dark forces are hell bent on stopping the good news of peace through Jesus Christ's suffering and death. So Jesus Christ our Lord gives the assignment to travel light... don't take a purse or bag or sandals and not to wander around with no direction. I would say, "Don't get sidetracked by anything." He even tells his Kingdom workers not to keep moving around from house to house. Jesus wants his Kingdom Workers to keep from having their resources redirected from saving sinners. He doesn't want us wasting our time and energy on stuff.

The evil spiritual forces against our Lord's Kingdom simply do not use the head on strategy to keep their hold on souls caught in the shame of sin and the dead end of death. I wish they would more and more, because then you and I would see them and label them as the dangerous threat that they are to our eternal life. Then we would be leading the run away from them and to our Lord's Word. Instead the strategy the dark spiritual forces use is distraction. We as God's fellow workers are constantly under attack of having our resources redirected. In basketball you fake a pass to make a pass. In boxing you jab right to roundhouse left. In the military you attack first away from the enemies' weakest point. How easily I fall into resource redirect. I get caught up in appearances, athletics, health, sports, music, family and fun, retirement, vacations, housing, cottages, fishing, hunting, skiing, and boating. All of those things are great blessings from the Lord for us to enjoy, manage and use. The key is to stay focused on the mission. Don't get sidetracked. Don't waste your resources. Jesus reminds us that our heavenly Father loves us and knows what we need; just keep focused on the Kingdom Work...

NIV Matthew 6:31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Part 2. Focus on Friendship with God!

What exactly is the Kingdom Work God has sent us all to do? **8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.**

When the 72 went out two-by-two, they entered towns and brought the peace of the forgiveness of sins. They told people that God has kept his promise and the Savior is near to save sinners. Some towns and homes believed and had peace with God. Other homes and towns refused to believe the good news. Those people were not at peace with God. In either case the Lord's assignment was the same, "SAY!" The Lord's assignment was to speak the truth in love about their relationship with their Creator and Savior. If they believed God's Word, then assure them of friendship with God – God is on your side. If they refused to believe God's Word then assure them that God's Kingdom Rule is near and you are still an enemy of God. That is God's Kingdom Work. That is our assignment today. God has asked us to speak up about His Kingdom, the peace of

forgiveness, so that sinners can become saints, so that enemies of God can become friends. Friendship with God is what Kingdom work is all about. Are you friends with God or enemies?

The 72 returned from their Kingdom Work and they reported their miracles of healing and even how they drove out demons from causing suffering to people. Jesus does some redirecting of his own. He redirects his fellow workers in the Kingdom away from the fireworks of miracles and confronting demonic forces and puts their attention, locked on their relationship with the Creator. "Rejoice that your names are written in the book of life." That's what Kingdom Work is about! Are you a friend of God? Do you believe God is working for you? Is God on your side? Is your name in the Book of Life? Or are you in the other line?

Flying out of a foreign airport trying to get back to home in the US is probably the worst part of traveling for me. I had a bad experience flying out of Paris, France and Barcelona, Spain. Imagine you come into an airport with dozens of counters, hundreds of people, and long lines of people everywhere. So many long lines you can't tell where one begins and another ends. You can't even see where the lines lead. On top of all that you don't understand the language people are speaking. So what do you do? If you are the gambler type, you just pick a line and hope for the best. If you are the trusting type of person, you ask another person and believe them getting into the line they told you. A man came up to me while I was trying to figure all the lines out. He asked me, I think, if this was the line for Portugal. I can't speak other languages very well. I think I told him where to go but I wasn't sure. The airlines sent their workers out among the crowded lines. These airline workers would just randomly ask people, "Where are you flying?" And then they would direct the person to the right line. But there were too many people, too loud, too many languages.

In the world there seems to be many different lines for the afterlife (for religion). And as many lines of people there are as many different ideas that their line is the one to get them to heaven and happiness forever. The truth is there are only two lines of people and it doesn't matter what the people say or think or do. One line is for eternal life, friends of God, sons and daughters adopted into his family for life forever. The other line is for unbelievers who refused Jesus Christ. Friend of God or enemy of God, know Jesus or No Jesus. You and I know the truth and so we send out paid people who have fewer distractions to tell people the peace of forgiveness. But there are too many people. The Lord has an assignment for you; ask your family and friends where they are going. Ask them if they are friends with God through Jesus Christ? Ask them if they believe Jesus Christ took away their sins and defeated death itself for them? Ask them if they have peace with God when they wake up and when they lay down to sleep. A good relationship with God is our calling, our mission, our main objective. Don't allow yourself or your family to be sidetracked. Focus on Friendship with God!

Ready, set go...for the Kingdom of God!