



The Gospel According to Luke Wk. 49 “The Joy of Being a Disciple” By Pastor Jody May

Luke 10:1-20 ESV

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

The Return of the Seventy-Two

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless,



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do not **rejoice** in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice** that your names are written in heaven."

Introduction:

This morning we are listening to almost what sounds like a repeat of another story from Luke Chapter 9 where Jesus had turned 12 Disciples into Apostles granting them authority to preach and heal in His name. This morning I am choosing not to spend a lot of time on verses 1-16 for they are things that we have been talking about since chapter 9; the path of true discipleship. Instead I will be focusing our morning more on verses 17-20 for what I want to cover: **the result of True Discipleship... JOY!**

Joy, the accumulation of a wealth of good thoughts and feelings in one's heart and it is shown by life lived displaying those traits. (Who do we know that lives out of this?) This morning you will see where

The Joy of the Lord
is your strength
Neh. 8:10

Disciples of Jesus attain those good thoughts and feelings from, BUT FIRST let me briefly **expound on these first 16 verses.**

Why does he appoint 72? Because in Chapter 9 He just explained a huge sense of urgency, - there is a need to proclaim the Kingdom of God, like now! This is a **precalculated strike** to get the good news of the Kingdom in Jesus' name out there so that when word from Jerusalem comes about what He will do, it will blow a hole wide open in the Kingdom of the World. This is all about EVANGELISM! **Definition by Johnny Mac... - EVANGELISM: The task of rescuing people from the grip of the World!**

Who are these 72? Well, they are what was left over from the desertion of John 6 which takes place at the same time of Luke 9 and they may be some of those that we saw from last week that were walking up to Jesus pledging to go where He goes. Whoever they are they are people that heard the call, were letting the dead bury the dead, were leaving homes and families, felt the urgency of what Jesus was communicating and were moving on with Jesus in faith. **These people**



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represent you, no training, heard the call, and were given no super-powers but the authority of Jesus’ name...

What were they asked to do?

- Pray over the task - ² ... pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.
- Be exposed to danger - ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.
- Don’t rely on yourself - ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals,...
- Don’t stop for niceties - ⁴ ... and greet no one on the road.
- Accept all Situations – verses 5-12 where they accept you stay, where they feed you eat, where they welcome you set up camp, where those that need healing heal them, and if they don’t accept you let them know they were WRONG not to, that means to confront them.

It doesn’t mean that being a disciple is all doom and gloom, all of us here are a testimony to the fact that **all calls to discipleship do not lead to martyrdom** but what it does mean is if that if that call comes we are willing to pick it up.

Then Jesus has this very OT like kind of pronouncement.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

There has been some works that Jesus has done that we don’t know about in Chorazin and Bethsaida but we do know of the work in Capernaum. It all comes down to this fact, that those that have had the Gospel preached to them and reject the message the more judgment they will incur. **Then lastly:**

¹⁶ “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”



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The Gospel they speak carries the same weight as what He says, and not to accept their message means they reject God. They leave by twos into the surrounding countryside, some time passes and they return. **At this point** due to the circumstances, the explanation for the cost of discipleship, and the very fact that these disciples will be encountering the forces of Hell itself **one should expect them to return with bad news BUT** instead it reads, ¹⁷The seventy-two returned with **JOY**,

The text this morning is introducing a new concept to us, it’s stating that it is through the path of discipleship that calls for a full engagement in God’s Kingdom, **leads to Joy!** I think you will find this message this morning **not just challenging but encouraging** to all.

3 Reasons for True Divine Joy:¹

1. Divine Power over Satan’s Kingdom

¹⁷ ..., “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”

First, the disciples in preaching the Gospel encountered demonic deities and Jesus notes they have a boss, Satan. (**Background on Demons and the Devil**) Most of you have heard of him, he’s not fictitious and the Jews believed in him. They also believed **that the Messiah would have the power to overcome him**. That’s why it is important to record Jesus’ victory of the temptations after his baptism, his victory over demons, and His final victory in tricking him by getting him to get people to execute Him. Jesus takes this power he has over the angels and demons and put it in the hands of the apostles and now the hands of the first missionaries.

¹MacArthur, John, *The Joys of a True Disciple*, June 29, 2003.
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-137/the-joys-of-a-true-disciple>.



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The key phrase in vs. 17 is “in your name”. It says in 9:1 that they were given the power to heal, in Chp. 10 they were given the power to preach, and both sets of disciples were given authority in Jesus’ name and the **byproduct** of that, just **preaching the good news in Jesus’ name is that the enemy flees.**

My friends in here this morning, you may not have been given the call of the Apostles, and we may not even have the same gifting and task as those 72, but the one thing we all share according to **Mat. 28** is the call to make disciples, **we all are priests (1 Peter 2)!** We all in this room have been authorized by the power of the risen Lord to get out in the fields, engage the enemy, and rip people from his grasp by sharing with them the Gospel of Jesus. We are still the rescue force until the Lord comes and we have all the power we need, **HIS NAME**, and all that are to be saved will be saved, and not one will be lost that is to be saved. **We are not held responsible for people to say ‘yes’ but we are responsible to share it when the opportunity arises and the Spirit leads.**

18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

I was watching, *theōreō* in the imperfect tense. I was a spectator continuously. While you all were preaching, I saw Satan, his kingdom, all the branches of it, the spectacle of it, the speed in which it happened, I saw it fall like lightning does! In vs. 21, a whole sermon on that next week, Jesus was rejoicing with the disciples. **Jesus before His death He saw the beginning of His victory.** What a great thing for our Lord to have in His heart when he walked to Calvary.

Remember this family, your calling and divine power over the spirits of this world is now supplied by a Risen Lord that has 24 hour a day dominion over that world. **1 Peter 3:21-22 ESV**

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been **subjected** to him.

Don’t be afraid to say the Gospel in His name, don’t be afraid to confront those that are hostile towards the Gospel for all is in subjection to Him.



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2. Divine Protection from Satan’s Kingdom

¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall **hurt** you.

Jesus was like, you didn’t know this, but when I granted you authority to proclaim the gospel **it came with the ability to walk all over them**. Those animal terms are metaphors for evil spirits. Jesus was foretold that He would be the first one to walk on Satan like that in Gen. 3:15, by using the authority of His name, we are using the feet of Christ to step on them.

Let me just make this statement because we live in the age of fantasy stories and horror movies. It’s like the *Exorcist* has dominated what has become canon in culture’s belief on the devil and demons. **Don’t spend your time talking to the devil, telling him to flee, don’t inflate his ego by saying anything to Him, that’s glorifying him. Glorify Christ, when you are afraid pray, when you are overly anxious pray, when you are so mad to spit pray.** Then in all your goings practice with this family not arguments of reason but **arguments for the Gospel. The Gospel is what opens eyes and makes dead hearts a live.** The Spirit doesn’t use our words to breathe reason into people’s minds, but the Spirit does use His scripture. Sometimes in my life I make it a combination I read out loud, I pray out loud, and then I will find someone to share what I learned about God in that day. I also know this, **Jesus said nothing from them shall harm me.**

1 John 4:4 ESV

⁴ Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 ESV

³ But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.



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Some of you may be thinking what about Job, Peter the night of the trial, or Paul that a messenger of Satan sent to torment him in 2 Cor. 12? Here’s what I know about all those stories, what was meant to harm them **God took all of it and used it for the good, made them stronger and through them increased the kingdom, that’s not harm that’s called a blessing.**

Maybe that’s where you find yourself this morning, under a trial, you are being stretched, and it may even be by the direct influence of a Spirit of this world. Because of what Jesus promises here in Luke 10 **what Paul discovered** through that tormentor **can be yours too!**

2 Cor. 12:9-10 ESV

⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

3. Divine Preservation in God’s Kingdom.

²⁰ Nevertheless, do not **rejoice** in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice** that your names are written in heaven.”

All these things are great, Nevertheless – **don’t limit your joy to those things**, but because of what you are encountering know this – **YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN**. In Jewish thinking there was a Book of life. Exodus 32:32 and 33 talks about it, Psalms 69:28 talks about it, Isaiah 4:3, Daniel 12:1, Revelation 3:5, Revelation 13:8.²

Here at last is the TRUE JOY that disciples receive in following Christ, **to know that their names are written in the book of life which we are told are out of the reach of Satan**. Those names were put there by God’s hand before time, and it is through the life of being a disciple that we learn about that. We begin to see that

²Ibid.



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how we are living is having a kingdom impact and through the Spirit **the longer we do it the more we become assured that our names are in there.** When you leave today family, don't just rejoice over what you are having for lunch whether your football team wins today, whether you catch that nap, whether you get all your laundry and cooking done for the week, **INSTEAD rejoice that your name is written in the book of life,** and from that joy you will be able to face this week and **even celebrate when something bad happens** for you know it will all work out for God's good!

And if you are here today, and you don't know if your name is written in the book of life yet, then you have been blessed as well, for you have heard the message of the Gospel, which means that God wanted you to hear it. Commit to spending more time with this great group of people and see if God has a call of being a disciple for you as well.

PRAY

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father that put our names in the book of life before creation ensuring that His people would be saved.

Go in the name of the Son that grants us the power of His name, that is above all names, ensuring victory and safety in His name.

Go in the name and the power of the HS that empowers us to tread over the enemy by the sharing of the gospel with those that are lost.