

'On the road'

Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus

Luke is up front about his intention in writing his gospel record: it was to help a man called Theophilus to have the confidence to trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He wanted to bolster the embryonic faith of this man in the face of both the hostility he was likely to face and the adversity which almost certainly would be his experience.

The aim of this study of Luke's gospel, therefore, is to help us all "*fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*", to the end that we "*run with perseverance the race marked out for us*" (see Heb.12.1-2)

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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17. Luke 10.1-24 [w/b Sunday 16th September 2018]

“.. rejoice that your names are written in heaven ...”

This section of Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus I've entitled simply '**Mission**'. The radical call to follow Jesus (9.57-62) involves our being sent out by Him. Previously (9.1-6) the 12 apostles had been sent out: very rapidly that's expanded into a team of 72! It's not a spectator sport!

In these verses at the start of Luke 10 we learn something of what will be involved for us in our '*proclaiming the good news*' (9.6) - and we're also warned of the danger that our very activity can become take the place of our relationship with the Lord.

[Despite your best intentions, there may not be time for all the questions to be addressed in your Community Group! Try and ensure that in this study you cover questions 2, 3, and 5. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer!]

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1. Read Luke 10.1-24. Jesus' pattern of sending His disciples on ahead of Him to the towns to which He was going (see 9.52) is continued and built upon here.

How do you think you'd have felt if you'd been one of the 72 as you were sent out by Jesus (vv.1-16)?

Have you ever experienced something like the joy of the returning disciples (vv.17-24) after some mission work?

Read **Luke 1.76f** where Zechariah's song is about the ministry his son, John will fulfill: how do we as present day disciples of Jesus 'prepare the way for Him'?

2. Read Luke 10.1-3. The 72 are appointed and sent: how that happened is succinctly narrated here by Luke.

What is the significance of the disciples being sent out two by two?

How does the encouragement Jesus gives His disciples in v.2 re-assure you as you share in His work today?

What does Jesus mean by sending them out "*like lambs among wolves*"?

3. Read Luke 10.4-11. The instructions Jesus gives His disciples in sending them out underline the urgency of the task they are to fulfill.

What general lessons can we learn from the specific instructions Jesus gave these disciples?

What was the basic message the 72 were to communicate?

How do we get that message across today?

4. Read Luke 10.12-16. Three towns in Galilee where Jesus had been exercising His ministry are rebuked for the lack of response there had been in these places to Him.

Why are these three towns (Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum) singled out for such a stark rebuke?

What response does Jesus look for there to be to the message proclaimed in these places?

5. Read Luke 10.17-20. The excitement of the 72 as they return is tempered by the wise counsel of Jesus as to where their true joy lies.

In what ways can our involvement in the work of the gospel become almost a substitute for our enjoyment of the Lord Himself?

What's meant by Jesus' words, "*your names are written in heaven*"?

6. Read Luke 10.21-22. Although, of course, there were many occasions when Jesus exuded joy, this is the only time (v.21) in the gospels in which He is specifically recorded as rejoicing.

What is the significance of the phrase “*through (in) the Holy Spirit*” in relation to Jesus’ rejoicing?

What occasioned such joy in Jesus at this time?

What does Jesus suggest is our true joy (v.22)?

7. Read Luke 10.23-24. The passage ends with a word from Jesus which underlines the privileged blessing which His disciples experience.

To what is Jesus referring when He speaks about the things which His disciples have seen and heard?

What is He keen that they (and we) understand?

What lessons have you learned about the work of proclaiming the good news from this whole passage (vv.1-24)?