

Mission

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

³ “Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

⁷ “Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

⁸ “Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹² I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Questions to Consider

1. Which would you prefer: selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door, or vacuum cleaner salespersons calling at your door every day? Why?
2. Read Luke 2: 8–14. What do the angels proclaim as the significance of Jesus’ birth? How does it relate to the message Jesus gives to the missionaries he appoints in our reading?
3. Re-read verses 2–12. What Jesus say about the danger or difficulty of the mission?
4. What does Jesus say about a successful outcome for the mission?
5. What does Jesus say about the urgency of the mission?
5. The destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19: 24–25) was proverbial as a sign of God’s judgment. What does Jesus mean in verse 12 when he says “it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town?”
6. When is “that day” Jesus is referring to in verse 12?
7. What are some reasons that Christians dislike evangelism?
8. If Christians followed these instructions exactly, would evangelists be viewed more positively, less positively, or about the same? Why?

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