

Luke 10

1After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Q. Does anyone remember the Greek Word for “after these things”? Meta tauta

Jesus had set His face toward Jerusalem; it would be the place that He knew He would be crucified. In the journey there, Jesus called out another 70 people as Disciples to go before Him into the cities on His path to Jerusalem. It is interesting that it does not say that He called out or appointed 70 men; so, we don't know if there were women Apostles that went out also. We do know that He was accompanied by a number of women that took care of He and the 12 Apostles. My sense is that they did much more than provide money and the necessary caring of a family, but they undoubtedly spoke with other women along the way.

When you think about the role women played in the early founding of His Church what roles did, they play? How many men were at the Crucifixion standing but a few feet away from their beloved Savior? John is the only one that is recorded, the others fled, but not the women. How many men went to the tomb to take care of Jesus body the morning after the Crucifixion? None.

There was a role for men to play in forming the Church that Jesus

Built but so were there roles important roles for the women that are not recorded. My only point is that we are not told here that of the 70 chosen and sent out that none were women.

2Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Planting and watering a crop are of little value if there is no harvest. God in fact does it all, but He accords us men and women of the privilege of being a small part of the process. We get to share the Gospel, we get to love our enemy, we get to love our neighbor; how many of us take advantage of those opportunities? There is a saying that goes; “Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.” I think more important than the words we say are the actions we take toward non-believers. But it is vital that our words that we eventually speak match up exactly with our actions. People are very perceptible and can see or sense phony. If our actions and our words are not sincere then there is a disconnect that destroys our witness.

3Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

There are many analogies of this verse; it is of course representative of two major types of people. Lambs, very gentle with little ability to defend themselves or be offensive. The wolf on the other hand is one of the most dangerous wild animals. They operate in packs, supporting one another in hunting and killing their prey. The analogy given by Christ is apropos then even as it is today. In their day there were two types of major wolf packs that Christians had to deal with; Hard core Jewish Elites and Roman Crown. There were more and as time has gone on more and more wolf packs have been created including many communist governments, dictators, Islamic Governments, and, hard to believe even our own American Government has been involved in being a wolf when it comes to Christian beliefs. You don't need to search beyond Abortion, promoted and paid for by our government until President Trump discontinued major funding for Planned Parenthood. Forced removal of Christian prayer from Schools, forcing Christian organizations to accept homosexual activism.

4Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

Jesus wanted His disciples to be totally dependent on God and God alone.

5And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. 6And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. 7And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

If the Word of God is welcomed in a specific house, then stay there and enjoy the hospitality that you are offered. If not, then search for another home that would be hospitable; and if you find one stay there. The idea of the “laborer is worthy of his hire” refers to taking this gift of lodging and food as pay for the effort put forth in sharing this New Truth to those who would listen.

8And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

These homes would be majority of the Jewish persuasion, but they may encounter gentile homes that would want to host them.

Q. Who was Jesus sent for or to?

Matthew 15: 24But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Gentiles were not bound by the strict dietary restrictions that the Jews would be. Jesus was telling them to eat what was set before them even if it was outside the traditional and legal fair. Jesus had addressed the legal issue in the other gospels about food; was it food that corrupted the man or was it something else?

Matthew 15:11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

9And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

God had determined long before this that He would bless people that blessed those He sent or called His own and He would curse those who refused to bless those He called His Own.

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

This is a doctrine God still uses today when it comes to Israel. It is one of the main reasons that America has been so blessed is our long but sometimes wavering support of God's chosen people; Israel.

In vs 9 God declares that these called out to serve would heal people in the homes in which they were staying and that the Kingdom of God was drawing neigh. Drawing neigh means

imminent in coming close. The broader sense is that Jesus was cloaking what that really meant. The time of His crucifixion was coming very near. At the moment of His resurrection the opportunity of eternal salvation which is the essence of the Kingdom of God was upon them, so leading up to that moment the Kingdom was drawing very close to all these people.

God uses a simple process that people could understand; blessing vs curse. If you do this you receive a blessing, if you do not do this, you receive a curse.

10But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, 11Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. 12But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

In the system of blessing and curse, in order for the people who witnessed it would have no doubt, God directed those Jesus called to go; to be very specific about their treatment within any city. In either case the Kingdom of God was going to come close to both the good and the bad.

All of the people would be familiar with the events at Sodom and to know that if you refused to accept God's Messengers that you

would be held in lower esteem than Sodom; Sodom was completely destroyed with fire, what hope would you have if you were worse off than Sodom?

Jesus in His ministry created many miracles that were never recorded, there simply would not be space available for all that Jesus did. We know this because of

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

13 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

14 But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. **15** And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

The account of many of these unheard-of miracles is recorded in;

Matthew 11:20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: **21** Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. **22** But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. **23** And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 ***But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.***

The very adopted homeland of Jesus where He performed so many miracles had found the ability to reject Him and those, He sent to them. Both Chorazin and Bethsaida were located near Capernaum on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Archeologists have located the city of Chorazin and found a number of buildings partially intact, but the city as a whole was destroyed, many believe by an earthquake.

We read these accounts and somehow, we exclude ourselves and our own history from the “blessing and curse” doctrine.

What will America say, the most prolific Christian nation in the world, giving more, sending more of everything including missionaries yet we are a nation that has rejected God on so many levels. What will America say? America won't say anything because it is not a person and it will be people that will be judged. Jesus used the city of Sodom as an example, but He was really talking about the individual people in that city, just like America; it is about the individual not the nation.

I am going to read an excerpt from a site called Word of God; it is an article written about Chorazin by a Christian pastor Jim Gerrish in 2004; he and his wife have lived and ministered in Israel for

nearly 20 years. Pay special attention to the accusation about modern day Christianity and its continued involvement with paganism. I think we need to take this seriously about the things we celebrate and their origins. Are they from God or from man?

<https://www.wordofgodtoday.com>

It seems that the true faith always remains in a life and death struggle with paganism. Throughout the centuries we see both Jews and Christians involved in this ongoing struggle. It was not just at Chorazin, but it was at Capernaum, Hammat (Tiberias), Bet Alpha, and other places where pagan symbols were included in ancient synagogue architecture. At the Beit Alpha and Hammat synagogues, there are the symbols of the Zodiac embedded in the mosaic floors. At both sites one can also see the pagan symbol par excellence, the image of Helios, the Sun God

Although the early church began with great purity of doctrine, it was not long until pagan ideas even crept into Christianity. We see Jude writing to early Christians with this exhortation: "I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 1:3). In a very few centuries the mother goddess, so prevalent in paganism, was introduced into the church through Mariolatry.

Definition of *Mariolatry*

: excessive veneration of the Virgin Mary

Her images continue everywhere in Catholicism today. Even our great Christian celebrations such as Easter can be traced directly to the pagan worship of the mother goddess Ishtar.

In our day neo-pagan ideas of Humanism, New Age, and eastern influences are often evidenced in our assemblies. Christian books and teachings often reinforce these strange concepts. We need a warning about all this lest we end up in a situation similar to that of Chorazin. When we take the name of God; call ourselves Christians and present ourselves

to the world as God's covenant people, we are placing ourselves in a peculiar and dangerous position. If we fail to be true to God and his word he will surely judge us and our judgment will exceed that of pagans who know no better. In Amos 3:2, the prophet reprimands Israel in stern words that certainly apply to believers today: "You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins."

-Jim Gerrish

Publication date, 2004

16He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Are we sitting in a pot of water that is slowly coming to a boil and in our arrogance believe we are doing exactly what God wants us to do with and in our lives? These words are written to Christians, they are written to us, will we heed them while there is still time; "He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me.

17And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

We come again to the issue of who is given power by Jesus and how long did it last and what was the purpose?

We know that Jesus gave power to His Apostles and to these 70 disciples, it says so right here in Luke and the other Gospels.

My concern is that there are churches today that teach that we all have these powers; I am just not sure that is true. I think there are people today that are given ministries and gifts to carry out those ministries in the Name of Jesus. But it is with clarity of a purpose bestowed, not handed down from family member to family member like royalty, it is something that God specifically calls a person to do and then gives them the tools and gifts to do it. It will never ever be involving making money; EVER! So, when you see someone that claims they have the gift of healing or handing out Spiritual gifts or whatever, watch first and see if they are compensated for exercising this gift.

Not everyone is given a specific ministry or a specific power to carry out that ministry. We are all given our general, for lack of a better term, “marching orders”. We are to share the gospel around the world. Some do it by becoming Missionaries; others by financially supporting missionaries, there are many ways to help spread the gospel, but the best is by our actions matching our words.

We see some are given the power to heal; but a very select group and there are many charlatans among those who claim this gift. There are many types of gifts that God blesses Christians with, and how well you use it will determine I suppose how long God

will continue to bless you with your gift. We all know of the story of the talents or coins that were given three men.

Matthew 25: [14](#)For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. [15](#)And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. [16](#)Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. [17](#)And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. [18](#)But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

[19](#)After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. [20](#)And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. [21](#)His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

[22](#)He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. [23](#)His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

[24](#)Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: [25](#)And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

[26](#)His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: [27](#)Thou oughtest

*therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. **28** Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.*

***29** For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. **30** And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

As you all know the story really isn't about money or investing it is about gifts from God and how you deal with any gift God gives you. It is all up to each of us; we need to learn the truth about everything we do; what is the history of Easter of Christmas of all of these things we celebrate in the name of God. How many are really directed from God and how many are of man and in that sense from the Devil. Would the devil like to introduce heresy into our lives? Does the devil introduce heresy into our lives?

Feb. 2, 2020 (02022020) first time in 900 years date written backward and forward is the same.

palindromic a word sentence or number that is the same when written forward or backward. 909 years ago, it was 11-11-1111

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Jesus was relaying to His disciples an image of what He was seeing as they were walking in Truth and Life; it was destroying the devil. As man exorcised the power that God had given them over the devil, the devil and his power over man began to fall.

What vision would Christ see today if He were standing in our presence and speaking to us; would He see “Satan as lightning fall from heaven”? or would He say that He is seeing mankind claiming to represent the Kingdom of Heaven falling like lightning. Paganism was beginning to be beaten back by the efforts of the apostles walking in the Words and Power of Christ. We heard in that article written in 2004 that paganism has returned to man and has infected the churches, (small c) and christianity again (small c).

What does Jesus recommend we do about this in our private and corporate Christian (Capital C) lives? Repent, repent and seek the Truth from God’s Word. If God tells us to celebrate something then we celebrate it, if He tells us not to embrace some festival even as much fun as it might be then; DO NOT embrace it. There were festivals established for Israel, we cannot and should not put ourselves into their place; it was for them in perpetuity, not for us the “Church”.

Pretty simple, but how many of us are convinced how serious God is about paganism and walking according to His Will in our lives? There is a fine line between legalism and walking in Truth. We each have to search out scripture to find the answer, it seems to have no effect for someone to tell you the answer.

19Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Now Jesus was speaking to the 70 disciples and 12 apostles? I am not certain He is speaking to us; but let's take this as if He was speaking to us. Is He really talking about walking on serpents and scorpions? Jesus is speaking about evil and the power that evil has over men. Jesus said that nothing shall by any means hurt you. In the sense of physical injury is that true? Was Jesus talking about physical injury or spiritual injury? My sense is that Jesus is more concerned about the things of eternal value than the things of earthly value such as our bodies. Did any of the Apostles ever get hurt? Oh yes, they certainly did, most of them were killed in extraordinary and painful ways.

This is from Christianity.com

Peter and Paul

Both martyred in Rome about 66 AD, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew

went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. Christians there claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas

was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Philip

possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Matthew

the tax collector and writer of a Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Bartholomew

had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

James

the son of Alpheus, is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Simon the Zealot

so the story goes, ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Matthais

was the apostle chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

John

is the only one of the company generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament--the Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.

But Jesus said at the end of

vs 19; **“and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”**

Were any of the Apostles hurt? Yes physically they were hurt and hurt badly, but not Spiritually.

If they were all physically tortured and injured in various ways, then we have to look deeper at what Jesus meant. Jesus speaks often in what we think is the physical, but in reality, He is speaking in His native tongue “heavenly or eternally”. He speaks in terms of Spiritual injury and by His power we will not be hurt Spiritually as long as we are; Obedient to His Words.

Anyone that has spent time studying the Bible will know that Jesus warned His Apostles and Disciples that they would not only be physically hurt but they would be taunted, and some will be killed.

Matthew 16: [24](#)Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. [25](#)For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. [26](#)For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? [27](#)For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 5: [10](#)Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11](#)Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you

falsely, for my sake. [12](#)Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

*John 15: [18](#)If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. [19](#)If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. [20](#)Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. **If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;** if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. [21](#)But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. [22](#)If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. [23](#)He that hateth me hateth my Father also. [24](#)If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. [25](#)But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, **They hated me without a cause.***

The fact is that the world hates you if you walk with Christ, if you don't then the world won't hate you, you are just a tweener. Half way between heaven and earth; no man's land and it is called Hell. God warned about this place; He said of this type of person that He would spew you out of His mouth. It is Revelation 3 and speaks of the Church in Laodicea.

Revelation 3: [15](#)I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16](#)So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. [17](#)Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: [18](#)I counsel thee to buy of me

gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. [19](#)As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. [20](#)Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. [21](#)To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. [22](#)He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

[20](#)Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

The power to drive out demons was an amazing gift, but Jesus is pointing out that is a periphery to the real important thing; having your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life. There is nothing more important in our entire existence than that!

Below verses copied from; <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org>

Revelation 13:8 - And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

This verse in Revelation 13:8 speaks of the lost, those who are not "born again".

Remember in the video we watched; Heavens Gates and Hells Flames we saw each time a person arrived from death they asked the angel to find their name in the book. That represented the Lamb's Book of Life. Do you remember the joy when their name was present? Do you remember the terror when their name was not found in the Lamb's Book of Life?

It is preferable to go to their site just type in Heaven's Gates, Hell's Flames and you can purchase the video.

Revelation 20:12 - And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 3:5 - He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 21:27 - And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 20:15 - And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

21In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast

revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

There is little evidence in the scriptures that Christ smiled or laughed but undoubtedly, He did because He was in human form with all the frailties and peculiarities of life. This verse gives us a side of Christ not often portrayed and that of outward Joy at rejoicing in the Spirit. Jesus was just a few short weeks from His appointed time to be in Jerusalem and He gives thanks to God from a heart that is filled with Awe at His Father.

His Joy comes from looking in the faces of His Apostles and disciples who had just returned from their first missionary journey for most of them. They were filled with unspeakable joy at recounting the stories of healings and casting out demons. Jesus saw in their faces; babes that were beginning to understand the awesomeness of God and His Power.

Jesus was delighted;

Vs 21 continued; “ that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.”.

22All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*.

Jesus looked upon this small band of people who had chosen to follow Him and He in turn had chosen to use them to begin the amazing future of the Church He would form. Jesus declares that the Father is the source and He is the recipient of all things. He further declares that only the Father knows the Son and only the Son knows the Father; knowing

1097 *ginóskō* – properly, *to know*, especially through *personal experience* (*first-hand* acquaintance).

It is an intimate knowing of a person far beyond even family and friends. It is the intimate knowing that only God and Jesus know at this point. This type of knowing came to mankind when Jesus imparted the Holy Spirit within the believers. It is total complete trust and acceptance of the Truth the WORD.

Vs 22 ends with;

“....and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*.”

Jesus is telling the disciples that it is up to the Son as to whom He reveals the Father to. Jesus chose these apostles and disciples to reveal the father to. He also chose those of His Church big (C); to reveal the Father to.

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23And he turned him unto *his* disciples, and said privately, Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things that ye see: 24For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard *them*.

This was not a large crowd but likely the disciples and Apostles that were close to Christ that He shared this insight.

Rulers of all kinds throughout history and even today want to know things about their nations and enemies and have tried all kinds of nefarious means to come by that knowledge.

Even political parties today will stop at nothing to find out what their opponent is intending to do. The knowledge of the workings of this world and the next world are beyond all men's purview. But a select few had been given the opportunity to not only see but experience the Power of God in the lives of those who believe.

It was only the beginning of what they would come to know and see in their lifetimes. What would a ruler or King or President give to be able to access the power of God in the carrying out of their actions whether good or bad?

As we found earlier Luke does not necessarily follow a chronology of the order that things happened with Christ. From the vast knowledge that Luke gained during his investigation there are points in his writing that he uses an event as a teaching moment.

We have just seen Christ's disciples return from a very successful mission that would lay out the path that Christ would use to go down to Jerusalem from Galilee through Samaria to Judea and Jerusalem.



The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

“A certain lawyer”, these were often Temple Scribes who not only studied but taught the Law and the Profits to the Jewish Nation. Jesus was obviously speaking to a large gathering and so to be able to ask a question this man stood up to be seen. When Jesus saw this man stand, He stopped speaking and allowed him to ask a question. The question seems innocuous on its face, but Jesus had gotten use to these plants by the Sanhedrin to trap Him in questions; Jesus was not dissuaded.

The question:

“what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus first answer lays the trap for this lawyer...

26He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

It is a useless effort to play checkers when the Master is the master of chess. Jesus knew this man’s heart and could see where he was trying to trick Him. Jesus pulled out of this man part of his heart’s desire by asking him to quote the Law.

27And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

The scribe responded as requested not knowing that he had laid a trap for himself by quoting to the Law Giver the Law.

28And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

Jesus wanted him to ask this question because this gets to the crux of the issue of how we Christians are supposed to walk out our lives. When you boil it down, Jesus has done everything for us; what are we supposed to do with those blessings? We are to bless others. In short, our neighbor is defined as; anyone who needs help and we have the ability to help them.

30And Jesus answering said, A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded *him*, and departed, leaving *him* half dead. 31And by chance there came down a certain **priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32And likewise a **Levite**, when he was at the place, came and looked on *him*, and passed by on the other side. 33But a certain **Samaritan**, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on *him*, 34And went to *him*, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35And on the**

morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave *them* to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. [36](#)Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

The answer is clear to anyone that is honest, and this scribe had stepped into his own trap and had to answer honestly but even in his answer; tell me what is missing?

[37](#)And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

In the story, Jesus identified each of the three potential helpers to the injured man.

Q. What were there identities?

A priest, a Levite and a Samaritan

Q. Who did the scribe say helped the afflicted man?

Even in this moment the Jewish scrip could not bring himself to say the identity as a Samaritan, he could only refer to him as “He that shewed mercy”. Hatred runs deep and it only can be dealt with by Prayer and Obedience to God.

Martha and Mary

[38](#)Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. [39](#)And she had a

sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. [40](#)But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

It is pretty well documented that Jesus knew this family well and for some time. The snit that Martha got into over doing all the work seems quite reasonable in dealing with family and sisters. It was apparent when Martha went to Jesus for help that she had probably already asked her sister for help or knew that it was useless to ask her; so in perhaps a manner to embarrass her sister Mary to help her, she publicly called her out by going to their guest and friend Jesus.

It is believed that the reason that the location and the name of Lazarus is not used is due to the fact that these gospels were written after the resurrection of Lazarus and the Crucifixion of Jesus. The problem was that if they and their location would have been released, they would have been in jeopardy from the Romans and the Heretical Jewish leadership. It didn't matter after 70 AD as the city of Jerusalem and Mary, Martha and Lazarus would like have been with the Lord and their home and the town of Bethany in rubble. This would have been the case when John wrote his Gospel and letters or Epistles, so he identified who and where Lazarus lived, but not so with Luke. Luke's Gospel was

most likely written and published in the early 60's just 10 years before the demolition of the Jerusalem and the Temple and around 30 years after Jesus Crucifixion.

41And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

Jesus uses a method of calming Martha down, it is like “tisk, tisk” by repeating her name twice, it is a loving and thoughtful way to gently rebuke her impatience at a moment when there is something more important than hospitality. Mary was able to discern that moment, but Martha was caught up in the moment of putting her guests before herself; a noble deed but shows a lack of discernment as to order of importance when dealing with Spiritual matters. Hospitality is one of the attributes of a person walking with God;

1 Peter 4: 7But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 8And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 9Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

At some point we all have to take inventory of ourselves, of what is necessary for ourselves to be in a right relationship with Christ. As it stated in

1 Peter 4: : 7But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

We are at this time that is spoken of here!

As to putting things in right order, I think pastors can get in that predicament as well; putting many things ahead of their own spiritual wellness and relationship with Christ. As with Martha if left unchecked it will lead to despair and eventual disaster.

This past week or so a tragedy struck the Kobe Bryant family; I have seen an outpouring of sympathy for the family, but it will go way too far in the context of what is really important. I saw one young man say; “I will carry Kobe in my heart for the rest of my life”. To be frank if that is who you chose to carry in your heart then you will only have the rest of your life; instead of carry Jesus in our hearts for the rest of eternity.

When Kobe’s heart beat its last beat there was only one question that was important? It was not how many championships he won, how much money he had, how important he was in this life; the

only question that mattered was; did he know Jesus as his Lord and Savior. The second and equally important question for his family, was; did Kobe take the time to teach his daughter about Jesus or did he just teach her about basketball?

42But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

The one thing that Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Kobe, Gigi and we need is Jesus Christ. Like Mary we need to choose wisely.

As to Kobe and his daughter I heard on the news as they tracked his movement that Sunday morning. At 7 AM he and Gigi were in a Catholic Church having Mass prior to boarding his helicopter. I do not claim to know anything about Mr. Bryant and his daughter Gigi's hearts, only God knows where they were, but I am hopeful that they knew Jesus as their Lord and Savior and are home with Him now. You never know when God will call us home.

People we know think either it is a farce to believe in something you can't see or prove with science or they think they have all the time in the world to ask Jesus into their hearts. The fact is that you only have a heartbeat to do that, and the problem is you don't know of all the millions of heart beats you have, which is the last one.