



“Practical Instructions For Every Witness”

Luke 10:1-20

3/15/2009

*Sermon Exploration:

In our message today Pastor Steve takes us through this passage in Luke and gives us some very practical advice for every witness. In the passage we see Jesus send 72 people to share their faith. They're ordinary, everyday people who trust Jesus. No resumes, no degrees, no names, no experience, just people like us. As far as we know, it's their very first time talking to people about Jesus.

→Bare Bones Outline...

Introduction

We need to shake off all our excuse and fears and get back in “the game” of telling others about Jesus' impact on our lives. Here is some practical advice for every witness...

I. No Need to Go it Alone (vs. 1)

- Jesus sent them two by two. In our humanness we are naturally hesitant to go alone.
- God calls us individually – but He typically sends us corporately.
- I think many of us have given up on the idea of witnessing or sharing our testimony or going on a short term mission trip because we feel alone. But what I see Jesus doing here is making witnessing a partnership. What if we teamed up with another person to reach our unbelieving friends?

II. There are many souls that are ready (vs. 2)

- *The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few*
- Jesus is saying that there are more people who are open and ready to believe the good news than there are people who are sharing it. There aren't enough Christians who are talking about Jesus.
- There are people at: Work, school, team, family. They're on the bus, in the van pool, on the airplane. They're everywhere.
- Don't lose hope and think everyone is closed. Not according to Jesus!

III. It won't be easy (vs. 3)

- *Go! I'm sending you out like lambs among wolves*
- Far as I know – wolves and sheep don't play well together

The meaning for us:

A. Be wise

- Although the fields are ready and ripe for harvest, wolves are lying in the grass.
- Jesus saying – be smart.

B. Be Innocent

- Sheep are not aggressive – they're innocent. When we share the gospel it's through the vulnerability of love and sacrifice – not fear and intimidation.

C. There's a cost to witnessing See **John 15:20-21; Matthew 10:21-22**

IV. Don't over-prepare (vs. 4)

- Our tendency is to think we need everything perfectly aligned before we can share our testimony. We can have all kinds of excuses not to share: I haven't been a Christian long enough; I don't know the Bible well enough; I'm not smart enough – I can't answer hard questions; I'm too busy to spend the time.

V. Look for open doors (vs. 5-8)

- Jesus says – as long as you are welcome-stay in that relationship – cultivate that friendship. Be willing to share life with unbelievers. If there’s an openness, friendliness, graciousness, then let’s interact and engage.

VI. Expect the impossible (vs. 9)

- Almost casually – Jesus says – heal the sick!
- The point here is: Pray for big stuff to happen. You go, you look for open doors, don’t over-prepare and in spite of the risks, I will surprise you!

VII. Don’t be ruined by rejection (vs. 10-16)

- If you are rejected don’t take it personally - I’ll deal with them – you shake it off.
- So Jesus says here –
 - A. When they reject you it’s really all about me. You’re only the messenger. Ultimately it’s all about God.
 - B. When they listen to you or reject you – it’s really all about me.

VIII. Never lose the wonder of your salvation (17-20)

- The result of their trip was nothing short of supernatural. They were amazed at what God had done (vs. 17).
- But Jesus refocuses them on the greatest miracle of all.
- Your salvation is the greatest miracle of all!

LifeGroup Discussion

→ **Introduction...** This Sunday Pastor Steve talked about Jesus sending 72 of His followers on a trip to talk about Him in the surrounding towns. Before we talk about the practical advice He gives them I thought it might be fun to talk about different trips we’ve been on.

→ **Open it...**

1. What is one of the favorite trips you have taken as an adult or child and what made it so memorable for you?
2. What is a trip you’d like to take in the future and why?

Trans: In the message on Sunday Pastor Steve challenged us to “get back in the game” of sharing about Jesus with those around us. Let’s look at the practical advice He gives them and see how it might apply to us.

→ **Explore it...**

1. Read Luke 10:1-20 together
 - If you were one of these 72 people what kinds of thoughts would be circulating through your head as you got ready to go to your first town? What would you be excited about and what would you be apprehensive about?
 - How was Jesus sending them out and Jesus sending us out, different and the same?
2. Let’s take a little time and quickly review the 8 bits of advice Jesus gives those He sends. *(Use the outline I’ve given you and quickly walk through the 8 tips, briefly explaining each. This will take a little time; make sure you have a good handle on the tips. You might want to walk through them one by one or take them as a group.)*
 - Which of the 8 tips speaks most specifically to how you feel? Which brings you a little comfort or was an “ah, ha” for you?

3. What are all the reasons that you can think of why Christians are afraid of sharing their faith with others?
 - Looking at the list, which scares you most?
4. Now, let's list as many reasons as we can think of why we should share about Jesus with those around us.
 - Which of these seems most important to you?
5. Think back to when you committed your life to following Jesus. If you were to tell someone about the biggest change that has happened in your life as a result of that decisions what would it be?

→ *Apply it...*

1. At the end of the message, Pastor Steve gave us a challenge to GO and to GIVE.
 - Why is it important for us to GIVE to support missions through our church?
 - Why do you think it's important for many of us to GO and be involved in a short terms missions trip? What can happen in us and through us if we GO that can't happen if we only GIVE?
 - Did any of you make a commitment to considering going? If so, where and when?
 - Did any of the rest of you think about going but didn't fill out a card? If you did, what stopped you from filling out the card?
2. In addition to **going** and **giving** what other ways can support our missionaries?
3. Who can you be praying for that you want to see become a follower of Christ?
 - This week pray for opportunities just to open the discussion about your relationship with God with them and look for God to give you opportunities to be a "witness".

Personal Ah Ha's!! What was one thing that really hit you from this week's message? What is one way you can apply the message from this week to your life?