

**Introduction**

- 1 Many yrs ago lived in small Zululand town and worshipped at some surrounding Zulu churches
- 2 When we went out to homes didn't go 2 by 2, but a groups of about 10 visited different homes
- 3 Held short church services near each home, sang/prayed, read Bible with short sermon, moved on
- 4 Church lady's husband, on leave went with us heard gospel 6+ don't know his response-died later
- 5 Going out 2 by 2 may not be best method of outreach, but God will use the seeds sown in hearts

**I Background to Luke 10:1-24**

- 1 In Luke 9 some important events took place emphasising Jesus to be very special – God's Son
  - a 1-6 Lord sent out 12 disciples+His auth. to preach kingdom of God/heal sick/drive out demons
  - b 20 Peter confessed Jesus as promised Messiah/Christ/A'ted One, Jesus taught re His death/res
  - c 28 Lord took Peter/James/John to mount to pray- transfigured, met with Moses/Elijah-'This is..
- 2 But Luke 9:46- shows the disciples did not get it-argued who would be greatest among chosen 12
- 3 They thought it was about them after Jesus died but is all about Jesus, what He'll do thru' them
- 4 9:57-62 Jesus taught about the cost of following Him and about those who make excuses

**II 10:1-4 Commitment to Jesus, King of the 72 workers, who went out 2 by 2****A 10:2 Committed to Pray to the Lord of the harvest for the spread of the gospel message**

- 1 The importance of prayer and intercession is the first command Lord Jesus gives 72 disciples
  - a Before He tells His ambassadors what to do, He first tells them b To pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up and send workers of His choice for the spread of the gospel
  - c Not everyone can give to missions or be gifted to serve, but every Chn can pray for mishes
- 2 Every Chn should have a desire for Gospel message be shared with as many as possible -you?

**B 10:1,3-4 Commitment by the 72 to follow Jesus, being prepared to go as His advance team**

- 1 10:1 Jesus chose 72, sent out 2 x 2 to selected places to find out who would/wouldn't respond
- 2 10:3 Their task wouldn't be easy-they would face dangers/challenges- don't know their names
  - a They'd be like defenceless lambs among wolves who would deceive & couldn't be trusted
  - b They must depend on Jesus + His word, being gracious to those who will be nasty to them
  - c Acts shows that like Jesus, early disciples faced persecution, this has continued until today
- d 10:4 Urgent , don't waste time-Don't take many possessions but trust God to provide needs

**C 10:1,3 Commitment to Jesus' words and obeying what he told them to do**

- 1 72 others had been following Jesus, heard his teaching, seen his miracles/power over nature
- 2 10:3 They not only believed His word to them, but also obeyed by going to places He'd chosen
- 3 As born again Chns Bible is our auth. for everything we believe, not church customs, traditions
- 4 Important for Chns to know Jesus' words during desert tempta'ns are just part of God's Word
 

'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God' -auth of full Bible
- 5 Chns show they love Jesus by obeying His teaching, if don't obey show don't love Him Jn14: 23-

**III 10:5-15 The message and two responses****A 10:9,11 The message – "The kingdom of God is near" mentioned twice**

- 1 Mark 1:15 Jesus - "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news.
- 2 At that time Lord Jesus had not yet died on the cross and risen again, but did 3 years later
- 3 To be member of God's Kingdom, each must repent of sin, believe Jesus died for him/her
- 4 God's Kingdom is spiritual k... where Jesus reigns & wants to be king, rule in believers' hearts

## **B Response 1 - Acceptance**

**a 10:5-7** When they enter a house say “peace to this house” - if accepted stay in that house, don’t move around -eat whatever is placed before you because a worker deserves his wages

**b 10:8-9** Where they were welcomed in a town, which provides them with hospitality, then

**1** Heal the sick **2** Tell them “Kingdom of God is near you” **3** Each must repent/believe in Jesus

## **Response 2 - Rejection**

**a 10:10-11** When they enter a town and are not welcomed, go into streets and make it very clear that “the Kingdom of God is near”, but must warn re the consequences of rejection

**b 10:12-15** By rejecting this message, they showed hardness of their hearts in rebellion against God + greatness of their sin resulting in those towns to be judged very harshly like Sodom

## **C 10:16 The Privilege given to the 72 to be faithful ambassadors for both God Father and Son**

**1** Jesus wanted the 72 to understand who He was, be subject to His authority, & fulfil His plan

**a 10:16** “He who listens to you, listens to me; he who rejects you, rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me

**2** The 72 were to be regarded as Christ’s messengers and ambassadors to a sinful world

**a** As long as they do their work faithfully and truthfully, they deserve honour and respect.

**b** Those who reject the 72 are in fact rejecting Jesus and the gospel message -face judgement

**3 10:16** states very clearly there is no other way to know The Bible’s Creator God exc. to believe in/know Jesus - means all other world religions are false can’t help anyone to get to heaven

## **IV 10:17-22 *Being* in a right relationship with God is more important than work *done* for God**

### **A 10:17-19 God prepares the way to enable Christians to do His work**

**1 10:17** 72 were excited & proud that even the demons submitted to them in the name of Jesus

**2 10:18-19** Jesus explains He had gone ahead and prepared the way for them – He’d given them authority, to overcome all the powers of the evil one, Satan & his evil servants - Jesus helped

**3** God sends Holy Spirit to live in/change hearts of all who repent/believe so they can serve God

**4 Eph 2:8-10** No Chn can boast as all are saved by grace & God prepares works for them to do

**eg** Mercy Buthelezi was devout church-goer, gospel not preached - left Zululand for Leondale to be near daughter, came to church- did Chy Explained became Bible Chn - returned home

**5** God had prepared her for years to hear the truth about Jesus – He provided that opportunity

### **B 10:20-22 Greatest Gift and joy God gives to every Christian is to be a true child of God**

**1 20** Mustn’t rejoice in results of ministry, but rejoice that their names are written in heaven

**2** The greatest gift any Chn does receive is to come into personal relationship with living God.

**3** God is more concerned about you *being* His child than work *done* for Him in Christ’n service

**4 10:21-22** God the Father/Son work together to reveal gospel truth to those who become Chns

**5** Is a mystery, as only God Father, Son & Holy Spirit know how they choose- no human knows

**22** ‘All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, & no-one knows who the Father is except the Son & those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him’-privilege

**6** Often God doesn’t want us to know what impact our faith sharing has-may think it’s our work!

**eg** Sipho Mente Abused wife/kids, Lord changed him—drunkard, arrogant atheist, now ordained pastor-2 theol. degrees, doing masters degree- dramatically changed from a ‘Saul’ to a ‘Paul’

**7** Jesus shows 12 apostles/us God’s work’s all about Jesus, king of workers-Chns are just servants

**1 Cor 3:6-7**

### **C God’s Plan for every Christian is to be committed to**

**1** Pray to Lord of harvest to raise up workers to serve Him **2** Give Lord Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> place in their lives

**3** Read His word each day and obey its teachings

**4** The spreading of the gospel

