

OPEN HEAVEN

Part 12 • September 15, 2024 • Pastor Jason Smotherman

LUKE 10:1-7, KJV

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.

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

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

1. Before His Face (vs 1)

- Intimacy with Jesus will determine the outcome.

2. Send forth Laborers (vs 2)

- Don't pray for strategy or resources, pray for people.

3. Carry neither purse, shoes, scrip, and salute no one (vs 4)

- Your provision comes from Him (*Purse*)
- Your comfort is secondary to your transformation (*Get used to getting your toes stepped on*)
- Excess baggage will slow you down (*Scrip*)
- Distractions must be put away with (*Even good distractions, mission minded*)

Undoubtedly, Stephen was aware of these instructions. Stephen's church was equipped with weapons. His life was not his own. He wasn't raised in a consumer environment. He knew that there was God's part, which is considered finished, and then there is our part. These first three instructions are widely talked about in the advancement of the Kingdom.

To be clear here are the marching orders:

1. Intimacy with Jesus - relationship over religion. (*John 3:16*)
2. People are the chosen vehicle for the advancement of the gospel. (*Romans 10:15*)
3. Lay down any weight that may easily entangle you. (*Hebrews 12:1*)

Most stop there, but wait there's more. We have lost the fourth instruction along the way. We are to actively walk in the authority that changes atmospheres and cultures.

4. Whatever house you enter, declare peace/shalom over the house (vs 5)

The Spiritual instruction of speaking life to dead things is a weapon of the warriors of God.

Most translations and commentaries will, rightfully so, focus on the people of the household. They are the prize. Souls are what this is all about. I believe this declaration is not just confined to people but also extends to spaces. We are to declare peace over every place our authority touches.

Listen to the generational promise:

DEUTERONOMY 11:24-25, NLT (MOSES)

Wherever you set foot, that land will be yours. Your frontiers will stretch from the wilderness in the south to Lebanon in the north, and from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you, for the Lord your God will cause the people to fear and dread you, as He promised, wherever you go in the whole land.

JOSHUA 1:3, NIV (JOSHUA)

I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

There is something powerful in the atmosphere that those who walk in the authority of Jesus create. They are atmosphere changers. They don't read the temperature, they set it. Inside you, the Holy Spirit gives you the authority to change spaces and atmosphere for HIS GLORY.

EVERY PLACE.

From the desert seasons to the fertile land of the Euphrates.

From the seaside to the mountain top.

Your victory extends to every season and climate.

It's not just every place:

EVERY WILLING PERSON

Fast forward to the commissioning of the 70. He gives the instructions with one disclaimer.

Be aware of the REVERB.

LUKE 10:6, KJV

⁶ And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again

Let me again try to help simplify.

Not everyone wants to have Peace.

Some will find their identity in struggle and victimhood. Our authority over the demonic strongholds hinges upon the willingness of people.

Most people love the comfort of their Egypt and despise the struggle of the promise land journey.

BUT there are those who have been waiting for a moment where the shalom of God calms the sea of their circumstance.

Those of us who have seen and experience the promised land, have a favor to ask of you. Keep walking. Keep struggling. Keep Fighting. The victory is not just in the journey, it's in the destination.

Jesus tells Stephen's church to declare peace over the homes.

Shalom over the home (doorposts)

In the OT, during the breakout season of the Israelites. God gives them a command. Over doorposts, spread the blood of a lamb, and when the Spirit of death passes by, it will pass you by. Peace will reject devastation. Your legacy will be saved. The power is in the blood. Not just for the saving of your family, but for the saving of your future.

Shalom over the circumstance (waves)

MARK 4:39, ESV

*And He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"
And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

In my minds eyes:

Jesus was waiting for someone to okay, it's your time. We have tried everything we know, but we are about to sink. Jesus spoke Peace over the circumstance.

Shalom over our sight (future)

JOHN 11:38-44, NKJV

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

You find yourself in a cave with no way out. (vs 38)

Your situation and circumstance stinks (vs 39)

Jesus teaches Martha about authority (vs 40)

They began to walk in obedience and remove the Stone of Doubt (vs 41)

Jesus teaches us what Open Heaven looks like (vs 42)

He called it by NAME (vs 43)

Our authority is that we get to take grave clothes off the dead who are now living. (vs 44)