

Theme: We are sent out into the world as messengers of the Kingdom of God. We are promised both a plentiful harvest and great resistance. Those who receive the words of the messengers receive Jesus himself. Those who reject them will experience his judgment and wrath.

Background: Salvation that was far off – has come near in Jesus. Time is short – there are many places Jesus has not reached.

Introduction: A Disciple’s True -

I. Identity (We are closely identified with Jesus)

A. Laborers for the harvest

1. 70 or 72?
2. Going two by two
 - Matthew 18:16
 - 12 went out alone; now they go in pairs
3. Preparing the way
 - Into the Trans-Jordan A neglected area.
 - Time is running out, need to “till” the fields
4. Similar mission to the Twelve (4-9)
 - a. Let nothing slow you down!
 - b. Stay where “peace is there”
 - c. Offering the peace of salvation in Jesus!
 - Peace with God

B. Intimate identification with the Savior

- Sent in His name, with His Word & authority.

1. His WORD!
 - a. The savior’s message *is* their message (16)
 - b. The Kingdom is come near! (11:20)

2. His Power

C. Identified with His Kingdom

- Truly are “ambassadors of Christ”

II. Danger

A. Lambs among wolves?

1. You will be vulnerable
2. Wolves devour their prey
 - God will provide for/protect his sheep (Isaiah 40:11; 53:7)

B. Rejection (Don't take it "personally")

III. Power

A. Words of Life

1. Peace comes to that "house"
2. Fruitful labor -
 - Bountiful harvest

B. Judgment! (12-16)

1. Jesus rebukes James and John (9:55)
 - Not the place of the *messengers* to enforce eternal judgment.
2. But Judgment will come.
 - Shake dust off feet in testimony against them
3. More bearable for Sodom, Tyre, Sidon? (Romans 2:6-8)
 - Not judged because they didn't hear about Jesus or the gospel
4. The message **is** a judgment!
5. Greater judgment because of greater knowledge!

NOTE: What judgment are we heaping up for ourselves?

IV. Mission (Application)

1. To the ends of the Earth - Mission hasn't changed.
 - The messenger isn't the judge. God is.
2. Part of a long tradition
 - You don't need a seminar to share the good news
3. Do you have that peace with God?
 - Do you have that *intimate* relationship with the Savior?
4. Truly a matter of life and death
 - We all deserve the just wrath of God
 - He has sent His only Son into the world
 - A narrow door to a vast Kingdom of Blessing