

Christ's Concern, Our Command

Luke 10:1-9

In Luke 10 we read that Jesus sends out 70 disciples (some versions say 72). He is beginning His journey toward Jerusalem where He has an appointment with the cross. He wants to give people everywhere along His route a final opportunity to believe in Him. *This was His greatest concern.* That's what He ultimately came to give His life for.

Do we reflect Jesus' deepest concern? If so, the very nature of His concern will in a natural manner become our command—our marching orders.

This is in fact a cause, not for pressure, but for joy. In Luke 15:6 (in a context of seeking lost sinners) we read *"And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'"*

Let's look at Luke 10 and discover several principles that can help us turn Christ's concern into our heart's command—and in the process experience great joy!

1. Strategy, 1

→ The seventy were part of a three-part strategy (compare John 4:36-38; 1 Cor. 3:6).

Explain each part and apply it to your current situation:

- Cultivating
- Sowing
- Reaping:

2. Vision, 2a

→ How would you define "vision" from a biblical perspective?

→ How does verse 2a connect with your definition?

→ "Effective evangelism begins with vision." Do you agree? Why/why not?

3. Prayer, 2b

→ Why does the Lord call his disciples to pray "earnestly"?

→ What is the connection between the verbs "pray" (v. 2) and "go" (v. 3)?

4. Warfare, 3

→ What is Jesus trying to communicate with the phrase *"As lambs in the midst of wolves"*?

→ Share your reflections on Vance Havner's words, "Any man who takes Jesus Christ seriously becomes the target of the devil. Most church members do not give Satan enough trouble to arouse his opposition."

→ Regarding the outcome of the spiritual battle, what is the significance of the emphatic "I" in the phrase *"I am sending you"*?

5. Dependence, 4-9

→ How does this passage point to the importance of radical dependence in spreading the gospel?

→ What does radical dependence look like for you specifically?