

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Disciples Sent to Preach” in Luke 9

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 9: 1-6; Matthew’s Gospel: 10: 5-15; Mark 6: 7-13

1. Disciples sent out to preach the gospel

- A. Lord Jesus sent out His twelve disciples on a short-term evangelical mission to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick, during the winter season of the second year of His ministry. The mission was limited to the villages of Israel only [Matt 10: 5-6], excluding Samaritan and Gentile towns.
 - i. This was a ‘practice’ mission, which was used to train the disciples for their mission after their Lord’s ascension. Prior to His ascension Jesus gave them the “Great Commission” to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth. [Acts 1: 8] So the initial mission trip was limited to the villages of Israel only, but was later expanded to other parts of Israel and the world.
- B. The mission: 1) preach that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; 2) heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out the devils.
 - i. Preaching the kingdom gospel comes first before providing helping services for the needy. However, the Lord gives His servants both the message of the gospel and the power to help the needy. Focusing only on preaching the message is doing only one half of the Lord’s commission. Likewise, helping the needy is not the key or the only mission. Preaching the gospel message and helping the needy with the power of God go together to fulfill the great mission given by the Lord.

2. Guiding principles of mission work

- A. “Freely you have received, freely give” [Matt 10:8] - Gospel of Christ has been free, given out without asking for money. Any Christian ministry that asks for money violates this principle established by the Lord. However, a Christian community [church] is responsible to support its pastor because “A workman is worthy of his meat.”

Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. [1 Corinthians 9: 13-14]

For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” [1 Timothy 5:18]
- B. Use the power of Christ to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils. Lord Jesus had given them the power to perform these miracles.
 - i. Why do we not see the miracles of healing the sick and leprosy, raising the dead and casting out the demons? Or, are such instances not publicized enough so that the public is not aware? Does not the Lord give the same power to His servants in the modern era?
 - ii. Christian churches have established schools, hospitals, and diverse social programs to help the sick, the poor and the needy through the centuries based on the Christian value of sharing the love of God and practicing neighborly love. Lord Jesus has liberally given the power and resources to motivated Christian people and churches to spread the goodness of God to the needy world.
- C. Travel light without money, burdensome luggage and necessities. [Matt 10: 9, 10] Focus on the evangelical mission, not how to survive and support yourself. “Workman is worthy of his meat.”

Your necessities will be provided, so do not be cumbered by what to eat, what to wear and how to live.

- i. We need to remember this mission trip was for a short-term training mission so that the disciples had to travel light. However, the guiding principle of Christian ministry is that those in God's holy ministry must not be burdened down with the necessities of living, but rather, they should set an example of living in simplicity and modesty so that their manner of living does not hinder the evangelical work, which is a holy calling.
 - ii. Pastors depend on the church's support for their living. However, Apostle Paul did not want to be a burden to the churches so that he sometimes worked with his hands to provide support for himself and his companions. Today, many pastors hold part-time jobs to support their living while serving churches that are not strong financially.
- D. "Stay in homes that welcome you and stay there during your mission. If a village does not welcome you, dust off your shoes as a testament against them on the judgment day." [Luke 9: 4-5] – Depend on the people for your needs as long as they welcome you.
- i. Staying in someone's home was necessary in the itinerant mission work, which was the mode of evangelical work during the first few centuries and is still the case in new fields of work where there are not sufficient number of Christians to support a mission work. Today, a mission worker often establishes a temporary lodging for his/her family from which they carry on the mission work.
 - ii. Contrast this command against today's luxurious, modern manner of evangelical work where a mission has a walled compound guarded by a security force and a large house for living, which is a significant departure from the local residential standard, and/or an airplane/ boat that carries them around for mission travels. Are such modern means justified for the sake of effectiveness of the mission work, or are they in violation of the Lord's principle of dependency on the locals and simplicity of living?

3. Value of Christian Evangelism

- A. Christian missionaries and pastors carry the gospel of Christ to all corners of the world in obedience to the Lord's Great Commission.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." [Matt 28: 18-20]

- B. God values the sacrifice and services of His servants throughout all ages until the end.

And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" [Romans 10:15]

Discussion topics:

1. *Are you willing to provide room and board for a traveling preacher if such a person comes into your community and is seeking such a service? How willing are you to support your pastor's living?*
2. *How do you value/ appreciate the ministry and sacrifice of your minister/pastor?*