



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Jesus Sends Seventy

JUNE 25, 2014

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**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching, forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly preached the Kingdom of God. Jesus is over half way through His 3 year ministry when He sends His select 12 common men to heal and preach. Jesus' impact became known to the common and to the royalty. God has provided a rare glimpse of the kingdom of God through Jesus transfiguration on the mountain to a select three apostles. Jesus now sets his sights toward Jerusalem, makes it very clear the price followers will pay to follow Him and sends seventy out for ministry.

*“Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. “Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. “Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way.” (Luke 10:1-4 NASB)*

**After this.** Luke records in previous verses that Jesus had just made it clear that those that follow Him would pay a cost and need to sacrifice much for Him. Jesus is now appointing or commissioning seventy of His followers to go out into every city that He would be passing through.

**Jesus appoints Seventy Missionaries.** Jesus appointed the seventy to go out in pairs, likely so that they could encourage each other and to meet the Jewish legal requirement for truthful or authentic OT testimony practice; *“A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.”* (DT 19:15).

**Jesus directs the Seventy.** Jesus sent the teams to prepare the way for Him and to preach the Good News. Jesus also shares that their mission will be challenging and compares their task to a ripe field that needs to be harvested and the danger of the mission to lambs in the middle of wolves. It would not be an easy task and would require labor, risk and sacrifice. Jesus was making it clear that He was sending the seventy into hostile cities and environments. Similar to the mission direction that Jesus gave the 12 apostles, He told them not to take anything with them; no money, no extra clothes, nothing additional of any sort. Jesus wanted them to rely solely on God and His providence. Additionally, Jesus told them not to greet anyone along the way. Tradition of the day generally demanded a lengthy greeting and with this direction Jesus was providing a sense of urgency to His teams to get quickly to their assigned task.

**Jesus, directing the way to Jerusalem.** In chapter 9 Jesus appoints, sends and equips the 12 apostles; and here in chapter 10 Jesus appoints, sends and equips 70 on a somewhat similar journey and tasks. Jesus is preparing His 12 apostles, His 70 missionaries, the communities and the world for His glorious arrival and death, burial and resurrection in Jerusalem some 6 months in the future. Jesus was preparing His people and setting the world stage for the ultimate Good News.

### For Your Consideration:

- Have you ever teamed with a fellow believer to present the Gospel?
- When you share the Good News are you relying on your strength and resources or God's?
- Do you have a sense of urgency and are you actively preparing a way for Jesus by your interactions with others?

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## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44