



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## A Warning of Rejection

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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 to heal, preach and warn.

*"I say to you, it will be more tolerable in that day for Sodom than for that city. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for you. "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will be brought down to Hades! "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me." (Luke 10: 12-16 NASB)*

**Rejection of the truth.** The seventy were to heal the sick and preach that the kingdom of God has come near; acting through them as an agent of Jesus the Messiah. Jesus understood that while many sought peace and comfort and found it in Him, many also would reject and fight His message of hope and salvation. Jesus shared that the seventy would find the same rejection at times. Jesus shared rejection of the truth has severe consequences. Jesus directs the seventy disciples to put the consequences in perspectives that the rejecters would understand.

**Harsher punishment for knowing and rejection.** Jesus shares with the seventy that as harsh a punishment that God issued and inflicted upon the OT evil and depraved people of the city of Sodom, God's judgment upon those people in those cities who reject the truth after hearing will be significantly harsher. Who are those cities? Those cities are the cities that He sent the seventy disciples. Jesus continues and shares that the same harsh fate will be administered to rejecting people of any cities that appear to be holy and righteous yet reject the truth of Jesus and the kingdom of God. Jesus cites three NT towns, Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, where He preached and yet many rejected Him and His message. To those people who heard and rejected, their judgment and punishment would be harsher than the punishment inflicted upon well known OT evil depraved people of Tyre and Sidon, who did not possess the knowledge of the truth as those having heard the truth. Jesus provides and additional perspective to the seventy disciples regarding people who reject them.

**Rejecting His disciples, rejecting God the Son, rejecting God the Father.** Jesus said when people reject those whom He sends, they are rejecting Him. Additionally, He said that when they reject the ones that He sends they are rejecting the one who sent Him, God the Father. The seventy were acting as the body of Christ, healing the sick and preaching the Kingdom of God. Those that accept the message received forgiveness and eternal life and those that reject the message, after hearing, receive a harsher judgment that if they had never heard it at all.

*There is Good News in Accepting the Gospel.*

*There is Bad News in Rejecting the Gospel.*

### For Your Consideration:

- Have you heard the Good News?
- Have you accepted the Good News?
- Have you rejected the Good News and do you understand the consequences?

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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