**The Mission of the Church**

As Jesus deliberately headed toward the cross, He sent out seventy disciples to preach in the villages He planned to visit. In view of His impending death, He began to train a band of witnesses. The instruction Jesus gave the seventy provides encouragement for our mission today. He encourages us by –

**1. The need of the harvest** v.2

A. The harvest needs your *witness*

B. The harvest needs your *prayers*

**2. The priorities for the workers** vv. 3-9

A. Gentle *innocence*

B. Trust in divine *provision*

C. Mercy and *message*

**3. The rejection of the message** vv. 10-16

A. The *certainty* of rejection

B. The *punishment* of rejection

**4. The defeat of the enemy** vv. 17-19

A. Satan *cast* down

B. Satan *trodden* down

**5. The joy of salvation** vv. 20-22

A. Our personal *election*

Revelation 17:8

B. The certainty of God’s *sovereignty*

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. Did the Lord speak to you today about Himself and His ways? Did He show you a duty you need to perform or a promise you need to claim? What was either encouraging or challenging in the sermon?

2. Though we are to be gentle and innocent like lambs (Luke 10:3), we are not to be foolish. What other characteristic should mark our witness (Matthew 10:16)?

2. Though Jesus commanded the 70 to take no provisions with them on this occasion, this was not a universal ordinance. What did He command in Luke 22:35-36?

2. The fall of Satan is not a one-time event. Scripture uses this imagery on a number of occasions to describe his utter defeat.

Isaiah 14:12 – His defeat mirrored in the fall of the king of Babylon

Luke 10:18 – His defeat in the mission of the 70

John 12:31 – His defeat in the death of Christ

Revelation 12:7-12 – His defeat in the end times

3. Satan trodden down—believers participate in the victory of Jesus over the devil.

Genesis 3:15

Psalm 91:13

Romans 16:20

4. What is the most encouraging part of this passage for you and for your witness?