



-- **Big Idea:** Effective evangelism proclaims the mission message of Christ.

-- Read Luke 10:1-12

-- Pray

-- **Three aspects of the mission message:**

1. **Communicate Reconciliation:** Jesus Christ came to reconcile unrighteous sinners to our Holy God.
2. **Communicate the Results:** Welcoming this message brings peace with God. Rejecting it brings punishment from God.
3. **Call for Response:** Everyone must respond, because the kingdom of God is near.

-- **Communicate reconciliation. (v. 5)**

-- v. 5 – “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’”

-- “When you...”

-- Telling the Good News of Jesus Christ is something God *expects you and me* to be doing.

-- “...enter a house...”

-- Our mission to be sent forth requires us to get out of our comfort zones and engage people where they are.

-- “...first...”

-- The Gospel of Jesus Christ ought to be the topic of primary interest in every relationship of our lives.

-- “...say...”

-- A principal part of our mission in Christ is to speak the truth of Christ with our lips.

-- “...Peace...”

- The mission of Christ is peace with God.
- The message for our mission is reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **Communicate the results. (v. 6-10, 12)**
  - There are only two possible responses to the Gospel.
    1. Welcome it. (v. 6-9)
    2. Reject it. (v. 10-12)
  - **Those who welcome the message of reconciliation are blessed. (v. 6-9)**
    - v. 6a – *“If a man of peace is there your peace will rest on him.”*
      - Literally, “man” = “son, descendant, heir”
      - In other words, a man of peace is one who becomes a child of God by making peace with Him through Jesus Christ.
      - The one who welcomes the message of reconciliation will be granted peace with God through Jesus Christ.
    - v. 6b – *“If not, it will return to you.”*
      - The idea: You sincerely offered the message of peace with God. They didn’t want it. Move on.
      - Those who reject the Gospel will remain at odds with God—separated from Him as an object of His righteous wrath.
      - *“...it will return to you...”*
        - Our promised peace with God is not affected by the attitudes and responses of others.
        - Our reconciliation to God is assured, even if others reject our message of reconciliation to Him.
        - Even though the lost may reject the message, and even though it may sting, we are assured peace with God as long as we proclaim it.
    - v. 7-8 – *“Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.”*
      - We must be content and accommodating in our mission.
        - ex. – *“Stay in that house eating and drinking whatever they give you.”*
        - i.e. – “Don’t demand your preferences, be content with what is offered.”
          - Philippians 4:11 – *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”*
      - In spreading the Good News of Christ, we must welcome different cultures and customs (but never errant beliefs).
        - 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 – *“I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.”*

- This selfless contentment was commanded as a way to separate Christ's true followers from the false prophets of the day who constantly moved around, ever looking for the bigger, better deal.
- God desires believers to bless one another through authentic Christian fellowship and discipleship.
- v. 8 – *“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.”*
  - In Scripture, to eat with someone means to have meaningful fellowship with them. (This remains largely true today.)
  - Again, in this verse we see that, wherever the Gospel is welcomed, we are to envelop believers in Christlike fellowship and love.
  - This love validates its source by refusing to demand its preferences and refusing to chase after better accommodations, but meets people where they are.
- v. 9a – *“Heal the sick who are there...”*
  - This physical healing that Jesus empowered them to perform is, as always, a lesser picture of the greater spiritual healing offered in their message of reconciliation.
  - The “sons of peace” are blessed with eternal healing from the disease of sin.
- v. 9b – *“The kingdom of God is near you.”*
  - For those who welcome the message of reconciliation, God's kingdom is near to bless, both now and for all eternity.
  - The message that we preach and the manner in which we preach it ought to provide a picture of the kingdom.
  - If we preach that the kingdom of God is near, yet behave as though our hearts and minds are far from it, then our message has no power and it gives no glory to God.
  - We will say more about this verse when we discuss the next and last point, “The Response.”
- **Those who reject the message of reconciliation are cursed. (v. 10-12)**
  - v. 10 – *“But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say...”*
    - The message that follows is the warning we are commanded to communicate to a hardhearted, unbelieving world.
    - As with every part of God's will, there is mercy in this warning.
      - It is always more merciful to communicate honest consequences than to avoid discussing them.

- Examples – Playing in traffic, pre-marital sex, abortion, preachers/churches that never mention hell.
- Our message is short-sided and incomplete if we do not warn unbelievers about the honest consequences of rejecting the Gospel.
- Jesus, who embodied the epitome of mercy and love, constantly preached the consequences of rejecting His kingdom.
  - Matthew 13:41-42 – *“The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
  - Matthew 13:49-50 – *“This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*
  - Luke 13:28 – *“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.”*
- The curses of rejecting the Gospel ought to be as present in our message as the blessings of accepting it.
- v. 11a – *“Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you.”*
  - In the ancient near east, this was a demonstrative expression of extreme disdain.
    - When the Jews returned from Gentile country, they would shake the dust off their garments and wash the dust off their feet so as not to bring Gentile dust into the holy land.
    - Here, Jesus commands his disciples to do this as a warning to those who reject peace with God through Christ.
  - This gesture was commanded as the testimony of God against those who reject the truth. It was a final appeal.
    - To reject Jesus Christ is to be rejected by Jesus Christ and that is to spend eternity in the punishments of hell.
    - We are derelict in our responsibility as ambassadors of Christ if we fail to warn the hard hearted and deceived.
- v. 11b – *“Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.”*
  - Whether we welcome it or reject it or try to sit on the fence, the kingdom of God is near nonetheless.
  - For those who welcome the message of reconciliation, God’s kingdom is near to bless forever.

-- For those who reject the message of reconciliation, God's kingdom is near to condemn.

**-- Call for a response. (v. 9, 11)**

-- v. 9 – *“The kingdom of God is near.”*

-- Our culture is accustomed to democratic rule.

-- Christ rules a kingdom, however, not a democracy.

When we preach the Gospel, we are not asking people to cast a vote. We are inviting them to enter to a kingdom and submit their lives entirely to an supreme Monarch. This King doesn't ask for our opinions, He desires our obedience. He doesn't need to campaign, for His victory is absolute. And this King doesn't need our vote. He rules supremely without need of human approval or consultation. His kingdom is not about self-satisfaction; it is about self-surrender. This kingdom is for people who are ready to lose themselves and their selfish ambitions and their vain conceit. This kingdom is for people who are sick of their sin and tired of dwelling in the kingdom of darkness. This kingdom is for people who are ready to deny themselves, take up their crosses, and follow Jesus Christ, who is King forever. It is the kingdom of a Lord who loves His subjects so dearly that He gave His life on a cross so that we can make peace with God.

Those who welcome the kingdom and submit to its King are promised God's eternal blessings of peace and life, glory and joy. Yet, those who reject God's kingdom are, in essence, thumbing their noses at a kingdom that they absolutely cannot sidestep or avoid. They are refusing to make peace with the one true King of all who will rule and reign forever. Either way—and please do not miss this truth today—the kingdom of God is near, and everyone must respond. You simply do not have time or the prerogative to sit on fence.

The message is reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. The results are an eternal blessing or an everlasting curse. The response is up to you—but know this: the kingdom of God is near and the time to respond is now.