

Luke 10:1-24

The Lord Of The Harvest

Good morning Church, it is wonderful to be here with you this morning.

If you are a visitor this morning, first off, we welcome you and we are so happy that you are here with us.

Please know, our ministry is simple, we love God's Word, and we center all we do on the scriptures.

On Sunday morning, we are going verse-by-verse through the New Testament books.

On Wednesday Night, we are going through the Old Testament.

This allows us as a leadership to fulfill our calling to teach the whole council of God's Word.

And also it protects you all from the pastor becoming like the Holy Spirit, and letting me select each week what I believe you should hear.

As we go through God's Word systematically, the Bible sets forth the topics and we let it speak to us, as the Holy Spirit guides.

We do not go searching through God's Word and cherry picking the easy portions, the portions that don't deal with sin, the portions that are uplifting, or only the portions that make us feel good.

We are getting a wholesome diet here of all of God's Word.

My daughter Sofia explains to me her hopes for when she is an adult, she says, "I will only eat candy, cakes, donuts, and she adds anything else with sugar."

She gets upset that mom does not allow her to divulge into her dream lifestyle of eating only sugar.

And any good parent would prevent their child from eating like that, they need protein, fruits, veggies, and grains to be balanced in their diet.

And that goes for me as a pastor as well, I cannot only feed with sweets each week, we need a balanced diet and often that means veggies as well as the meat of God's Word.

And as we have seen, every now and then as we go through God's Word we get desserts as well.

But we try to get a balanced diet, through the whole council of God.

With that being said, we are in the midst of a study of the Gospel of Luke, and this morning we have made it to Luke chapter 10, we are going to look at the first 24 verses of that chapter as we feast on God's Word this morning.

Let us pray before we get into it...

Let's remember where we are in our study for a moment.

Remember Jesus has finished His Great Galilean Ministry.

Once the disciples came to the understanding that Jesus was the Christ of God, the last phase of Jesus' ministry was initiated.

We saw immediately after Peter's confession, that Jesus went up on the mountaintop to meet with Moses and Elijah who came to discuss Jesus' Exodus from this earth, His Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Ascension to His heavenly throne.

It was a magnificent scene, as Jesus' Divinity shown through and Peter, James and John were privileged with a glimpse of Jesus' Glory.

Jesus left the mountaintop, and begin His journey to the Holy City to do what He came to this earth to do, offer Himself up as the sacrifice for mankind, and bring salvation to humanity once and for all.

However, Jesus' disciples from this point on misunderstood the mission of Jesus.

Instead of hearing Jesus, who plainly told them over and over again that He must go to Jerusalem to be rejected as Messiah, and killed, instead, they conjured up their own ideas.

They had ideas of position, of respect, and they were found arrogant and jockeying for position in the Kingdom.

We read how they argued about who was the greatest among them.

We even see the height of their ideas of supremacy, when Jesus tries to go the short route to Jerusalem through Samaria.

The Samaritans refused Christ, because His face was set to go to Jerusalem, and the hatred between the Samaritans and Jews was so great, and the thinking of the disciples was so wrong, that two brothers asked Jesus if they could call down fire from heaven to devour Jesus' enemies.

Jesus told them "you do not know what manner of spirit you are of."

Jesus came to Save not Destroy.

And we ended the last chapter with would-be followers of Christ, who were full of excuses and really were double-minded in their commitment to Christ.

Now, after hearing about those three men, we are left really feeling a little discouraged for Jesus.

But off that valley low in the ministry for Jesus, this morning we get to see a joyous mountain peak in His ministry.

And in scripture we are told in three different places that Jesus wept, however, this morning, we get to see the only place Jesus rejoiced.

A jubilant and gracious scene is before us this morning.

Please note that from this point until about half way through chapter 18 much of the content is unique to Luke's Gospel record only.

Let's get into our text here, and this encounter, of Jesus sending out the Seventy, is found only in Luke.

Please look at Luke 10 verses 1-12...

The Seventy Sent Out

10:1 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. 2 Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. 3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. 5 But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. 7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8 Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. 9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 11 'The very dust of

your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' 12 But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city.

Now I want to mention right here at the beginning, many today have tried to make this scene a template for ministers of the gospel today.

Please understand, this calling and sending of the Seventy disciples is unique to the dispensation or time period prior to ours, it is only for these men, and for a time when Jesus was here on earth.

There are different guidelines for our dispensation for the minister of the gospel today.

That being said, there are some wonderful principles that we can take away that go through every time period for the people of God.

So we will go through this, and discuss what it meant for the Seventy, and how we can apply the principles to us today.

So we see Luke transitions to a time after all that we discussed in the introduction, and Jesus now calls Seventy more disciples for a unique mission.

Remember last chapter, during the Great Galilean Ministry Jesus called to Himself Twelve, who would be called Apostles, they were sent in very similar manner, however those Twelve hold a unique office and calling.

These Seventy are separate than those Twelve, and they are called for a broader ministry than that of the Galilee region, they were to go into every city and place where Jesus was about to Go.

We do not know the names of any of these disciples, nor does God's Word give much detail of their journeys.

There were no big names in here at all.

These disciples were on the road with Jesus, and Jesus suddenly commissions them to go two-by-two.

Why the number Seventy or as some manuscripts say 72?

It is not clear, but we do know that the number Seventy has a biblical precedence, we can think of the Seventy that came with into Egypt with Jacob, or the elders that Moses called to help him judge Israel.

Eldad and Medad? Numbers 11:24

Some have made a connection to the Jewish Sanhedrin, the ruling party of the Jewish religion, that was made up of Seventy men, and perhaps Jesus was setting up a rival or true Seventy.

Yet others hold that these unique men are a greater picture, one of that of missionaries sent into the world.

In Genesis 10, there is a list of 70 nations that make up the world, and some see this as a picture of the gospel messengers going into the world.

Well, which one is it pastor? I say, out of all three of those explanations, I would say yes to all of them.

They all are equally great, but although we cannot quite pinpoint the reason for the number Seventy, we can conclude that Jesus is at the end of His ministry here, He is on the final journey to Jerusalem, and there was little time left.

So, there is a need for many of these messengers to take the message further and wider than even the Twelve could do.

So these men, although their role was temporary, served a great purpose in Jesus' last chapter in His ministry here on earth.

Jesus sent them two-by-two, and this is great wisdom on the part of Jesus.

On their journeys, they were able to have wonderful fellowship with each other, they could keep the conversation flowing, talking of the wonderful things Jesus was going to do through them,

When one got discouraged, the other could lift him up. Even Solomon said....

Eccl 4:9-12 Two are better than one,

Because they have a good reward for their labor.

10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.

But woe to him who is alone when he falls,

For he has no one to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?

12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

It was for safety and companionship that they were set out in 35 pairs.

And Jesus gave them vital information that would determine the success of their journey.

Look at the picture Jesus puts before them, He sets in their imaginations a Great Harvest, an overwhelming harvest, a huge and ominous work.

And Jesus points out, that the two of them will be out there in the midst of the great work, and the realization will hit them.

We are few, and this work is Great!

They are instructed to pray to the Lord of Harvest, they are to seek God for workers.

This is the starting point of their ministry, these ambassadors need to Seek the Lord in prayer first.

I love that Jesus asks them to pray for more laborers, but the lack of laborers is not an excuse that the workers are allowed to use.

Jesus sends the few out, after they are instructed to pray for more workers, they are sent into the work.

Listen, this principle can be applied today, the faithful few are still at it in the church, and we are to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to enlist more workers, but their enlistment does not determine if we go or not.

The reward is in the going, serving, and being used in this great harvest.

Jesus gives these Seventy a truthful assessment here, they are being sent out as lambs among wolves.

The Faithful Few, in every dispensation have been persecuted mercilessly ever since Cain killed his brother, the faithful Able.

Today nothing has changed, when you commit yourself to be a disciple of Christ in this life, you immediately enlist yourself into a world that will be hostile and unfair toward you.

Jesus taught **Matt 5:11-12** "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

We can expect it, and this too is a principle that translates over from these Seventy to us today.

We will be persecuted.

Next in verse 4 we see these Seventy are sent out with neither money bag, knapsack, or extra shoes.

They are also not to greet anyone on the road.

Jesus here as He did with the original Twelve, is sending them out this time to learn to only depend on Jesus for their provision.

This is a vital teaching for these men, and as I said when we looked at the Twelve's commission, every minister of God should go through a season in life where they are taught this dependency on Jesus through poverty and faith.

Later on Jesus will instruct the disciples to live shrewdly and even to prepare for the unknown, after His departure from earth.

Luke 22:35-36 And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?"

So they said, "Nothing."

36 Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.

Tough days are ahead, and they had to prepare.

Now, although this instruction was for the Seventy in our text this morning, it is a principle every child of God can apply.

We are to look to God for our provision, not to set our hearts on worldly comforts.

Only necessities and having just enough should be our goal in this life.

Luxury for the believer is not to be sought now, but we are too look to a heavenly mansion, a place where rust or moth cannot destroy, we are to live for our eternal reward an abode.

The Ambassador of God, should not be tied to this world.

We see too these Seventy were to be on the move, Jesus was about to die, and they had no time for the traditional Oriental Greetings on the road, they were to get to their hearers with haste.

And this principle again is not just for them, but for us as well, our Gospel message is one of urgency; we are guilty of thinking there will always be more time.

“After I raise my kids, I will get busy for Jesus, after I make just a little more money, after I get this promotion then I will get to work for the Lord.”

Or we procrastinate sharing our faith for the endless tomorrows we look too.

“Tomorrow I will tell Johnny at school that I am Christian, tomorrow I will invite my co-worker Bob to church.”

“Tomorrow I will ask Nancy to go to Women’s Bible Study with me.”

And the thing with tomorrow, when it comes we look to the next one.

Today is the day, now is the time, don’t wait to make that phone call, send that text message, today is the day to write that letter, or to invite that person over for lunch or meet that person for coffee.

Every one of us have those people in our lives who we know God wants us to reach for His Kingdom, with great urgency, reach out to them.

We do not have time for godless chatter or small talk, let’s get them the message that matters!

I know, Jess and I have made it kind of a competition.

If we are at the mall, Walmart, or even at the park, whenever we are in a conversation with someone new, we try to get the conversation to Jesus as quickly as possible.

No matter what it is that starts the conversation, lately, usually it is my son, who has taken our mostly introverted family to new heights with his outgoing personality.

He talks with everyone and his friendliness opens up for us an opportunity to share or even invite someone to church.

Now, it has gotten to the point, that if I do not say anything about Jesus, I miss my opportunity for some reason or another, not only Jess will just shake her head in disapproval, but there are times Sofia my 7 year-old now expects something to be said about Jesus.

But it is fun, as Jess and I go about life, to have these encounters.

Two-by-two going through life trying to share Jesus.

Some people are anxious to hear about Jesus, some get uncomfortable and leave, and others even get mad.

We can be having a wonderful conversation with someone, but once we say Jesus or church, they close up, and some are even offended.

But notice now in verses 5 - 8, Jesus says as they arrive at a home, they are to greet the person with Peace, a normal Hebrew greeting, Shalom.

And if there is a son of peace there, the ambassadors of Jesus will be welcomed in.

If there is no peace, no connection, no unity of heart, the messengers will know.

Now, they are to receive and eat the things that are set before them, they are not to take more or expect more than what is given to them.

The laborer is worthy of his hire, they were to accept provision but not in access.

They were to stay put and not look for better quarters; comfort was not their motivator, but the listening ear was to be the main factor.

It was not about the worker one bit. They were stay where the Peace of God was.

Again the principle transfers to the gospel worker today, don't have ambitions for more mammon, be content with what you are given.

In verse 7, Jesus gives them authority to heal and of course, any valid healing ministry will be substantiated by a teaching and preaching ministry.

They were to go with haste as missionaries with a simple message that the nation of Israel was ripe to hear.

“The Kingdom of God is near to you.”

And all those waiting for the promised Anointed King would respond with haste.

But in verse 10, those who are not expecting their Messiah, and they reject His messengers, Jesus tells them to say, “The very dust of your city which clings to us, we wipe off against you.”

This was a very customary saying in Jesus' day as we discussed in chapter 9.

Essentially the messenger is saying, I did my part in bringing the message, but your rejection has sealed your fate.

The Kingdom of heaven came near them, and they rejected it, and Jesus explains that their judgment will be worse than that of the Sodomites of Abraham and Lot's Day.

Understand the severity of what Jesus is saying here, the murderers, the rapists, the terrorists, the immoral, liars and thieves that are in this world, will be better off in Judgment than those who heard this wonderful Gospel message and rejected it.

Those who were familiar with the power of Jesus, the teachings of Jesus, the good religious people, church going people, who spent their lives around the truth of God's Word, and yet they never responded, they never entered into a relationship with Jesus, they just stayed content with head knowledge and even religious performance.

Those people will be worse off than that wicked city Sodom, that was judged so vehemently as it now sits pummeled so greatly, that it is now the lowest point on earth, and sits under the Dead Sea.

You see church, for those who have been privileged to live in our country, who have had the great opportunity and are rich in God's Word, for those who

have been entrusted with much, much more is required of them.

And with such a great privilege before us, the responsibility is far greater on our part to choose Jesus.

These Seventy men would be some of the first messengers of Jesus, they were sent to preach to a people that lived in the very day the Messiah walked this earth and even with such a great witness and testimony people denied Christ.

Today is only different, that we now encounter Jesus through His Word, it testifies to the Truth of who our God is, it brings us into the knowledge and understanding of how to find salvation in Jesus, yet many today reject God's Word.

But the severity is the same, in that we have the witness of His Word, the testimony of those who have been touched by Jesus through faith in His Word and His Work on the cross, we have such a great cloud of witness, that rejecting Him is the greatest travesty a person can commit in this life.

Matt. 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

There is only one inexcusable sin; that is to be brought to the brink of truth by the Holy Spirit, and reject it, after this life is over, we will be judged by what we did with the Jesus, as the Spirit brought glory too Him in this life.

Jesus said the Spirit's purpose was to bring men to Him...

John 16:13-15 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Anyone who blasphemes the Spirit, and permanently rejects Jesus Christ by resisting the Holy Spirit, and denying the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, they will be doomed for all eternity.

And once again we see clearly here, that as there is levels of rewards distributed in heaven, there is also levels or degrees of punishment one receives in hell.

To reject the clear witness of Christ is one of the highest of offenses.

Jesus emphasizes this reality next, look at verses 13-16 with me...

Woe to the Impenitent Cities(Matt 11:20-24)

13 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades. 16 He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

It is interesting that Jesus pronounces judgement upon Chorazin and Bethsaida, as having a great witness to the Light of Jesus' ministry, and yet the scriptures are silent on what took place there in those cities.

However, John ends his Gospel with **John 21:25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.**

You see the record we have is very brief and does not include everything Jesus did, however we see here mighty works were done in those two cities, and they rejected Jesus and the witness of His ministry and they are condemned by having such a great privilege.

The gentile Phoenician Cities of Tyre and Sidon, would have repented in humility had they been graced with all that Chorazin and Bethsaida witnessed.

In addition, Capernaum, who was exalted higher than any other city, it is where Jesus established His headquarters for His earthly ministry, and where most of the recorded miracles were demonstrated.

Jesus frequented the Synagogue there often, taught many teachings there, and no city had a greater witness than Capernaum, but because of this great privilege and because of their rejection, they will be judged in the depths of Hades.

Jesus tells the Seventy in Verse 16, they are His voice, and if they are received than Jesus is received, if they are rejected it is Christ in them that is rejected.

There will be ramifications for those who reject the message that they have been entrusted with.

And of course this all translates to our dispensation as well, we are all heralds of the Gospel message, and we are all to sound the alarm of the a coming King and Kingdom.

When we are cast out as fools, or as ignorant, or when they call you bigots and accuse you of being narrow-minded.

Understand, as these Seventy do, it is Christ in you that they are rejecting.

~~Don't think that it is bizarre that while Christian Churches today remain the number one target for hate crimes, that the media is silent.~~

~~All hate crimes are a tragedy, and it is horrible that any house of worship should be attacked.~~

~~Now according to Open Doors USA, an average of 105 churches and/or Christian buildings are burned or attacked every month.~~

~~That is more than three per day, and almost all of those attacks get ignored by the mainstream media in the western world.~~

~~In addition, an average of 345 Christians are killed for faith-related reasons every single month.~~

http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=3141

~~The facts say one thing, but the narrative they push is a complete lie, and yet it is our God they are rejecting.~~

Now, in our day there is no greater witness available to mankind, with the age of the internet, every corner of our world has the gospel available to them.

We are in an age where no one will be able to on Judgment Day, say, "I did not know."

And the judgment will be worse for those who had a clear witness yet rejected their Savior.

So after Jesus commissions these fellows, some time passes, an unknown amount of time, perhaps months, but these men return now, and they are pumped as they experience the joy of serving Jesus.

The Seventy Return with Joy

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

So these guys come back just full of adrenaline.

They also come back a little too full of themselves.

So Jesus, as He does often brings them down to reality.

They are excited that they had power even over the evil spirits.

You can imagine this is monumental for these men, there is not a Ph.D. in the bunch.

Remember Jesus used the ordinary underprivileged people of His day, and He still does this today by the way.

But these men, perhaps have never experienced authority over any one, let alone powerful demons.

And this was a huge milestone in their lives.

And Jesus replies with something that has confused many scholars even to this day.

He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Now, it is not clear if Jesus is speaking prophetically, and He sees into the future here, when Satan is cast from Heaven permanently.

You see today, Satan still has access to heaven, he is known by us in the church age as the accuser of the brethren where he stands accusing day and night.

Also, the Book of Job gives a clear picture of this.

And perhaps Jesus is speaking to when in the Book of Revelation, the Dragon is cast from heaven permanently and brings a great tumultuous time to this earth.

Or maybe Jesus is talking about Lucifer's fall from his position, when Satan sat as the highest cherub in heaven, and because of pride, he desired to ascend to the throne of the Most High, and was cast from that prestigious position, and destined for eternal punishment at the end of all the ages.

Or Jesus may be talking with great excitement here, and He could be talking about how a new age was now upon the earth, and Satan's stronghold and sway over mankind is now being interrupted and even being reversed.

As the Seventy went out, they were tearing down strongholds and wreaking havoc upon the kingdom of darkness.

Jesus being the Lord of the Harvest, sees His laborers working in the great work, and He is rejoicing that

souls are being ripped from darkness to light, and Satan's end is inevitable.

Which one is it? Which one do I believe, well, they all are fine for me, Jesus is speaking of the enemy of our souls being defeated in whatever He is saying here.

Then He also says that those Seventy will have authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, both symbols of evil, and over all power of the enemy, He tells them nothing shall hurt them.

Now of course, Jesus also warned of persecution, and we know God's people have historically been hurt and killed.

Again, in our dispensation, we are to not fear the enemy, and we are instructed to tear down strongholds of our enemy, but we are not guaranteed our lives will be saved.

Jesus told these Seventy men this before the cross, yet after His death, and resurrection, the disciple of Christ has a different expectation, one of taking up our own cross in this life.

Matt 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

We are looking to our eternity, not a preserved life here.

So don't go out and join those cults who take this verse way out of context and play with poisonous snakes and scorpions, that is demonic and twisted.

In 2014, you might remember in Kentucky a pastor died from this foolishness.

He was bitten by a rattlesnake, and refused treatment at the church, and then when the ambulance found him unconscious at home, the wife signed a declaration denying any medical treatment.

Of course he died, not because he lacked faith, but because he lacked common sense. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/snake-handling-pentecostal-pastor-dies-snake-bite/story?id=22551754>

They took scripture way out of context and paid dearly for it.

So Jesus in verse 20, gives here the proper perspective that a worker of Christ should have.

When we are used, and the Holy Spirit works through you, rejoice, that you are a child of God, that your name is written in heaven's books.

Ponder that this morning, for those of us who have come to a Saving Knowledge of Jesus in this life, we are written in heaven's books.

We have a reservation that cannot be cancelled.

When I get there after this life is over, I get to say reservation for one please.

They will look, and my name will be in the Book, and hopefully your name will be there as well.

That is something to consider, that outweighs anything else in this life!

So after the Seventy come back, this is the only time in scripture we see Jesus rejoice over anything, and it is wonderful to consider what He finds joy in today.

Jesus Rejoices in the Spirit(Matt 11:25-27)

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 22 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

So this is the same moment, when the Seventy returned.

They came back rejoicing, and we see Jesus too rejoiced in the Spirit, and thanked His Father, that He hid these things from the wise and proud, and these babes, or spiritual infants saw clearly.

The pride of the Jewish religion had served as a blinder to Truth.

Yet, these ordinary men, these outcasts, these needy men, were the ones who saw clearly the truth of who Jesus was, and what was possible when someone puts their faith in Him.

I don't know why the brilliant scholars of our day, the debaters, the high thinkers, the great theologians seem to miss this great truth.

They over shoot what matters about our faith.

Paul said in **Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.**

God works through the humble, this is an undisputable fact, yet arrogance seems to plague the modern Church.

Not that knowledge is bad or learning is in vein, but to endeavor do so with a grateful heart, to keep the heart of a child in your experience with God.

Too many, like the Pharisees of the Jesus' day, pride themselves in Bible Knowledge, and degrees.

Yet, we see consistently that those types often miss the simple realities of God's Word.

Understand the best way to stay humble in your learning, is apply what you learn to your own life.

The doing part of God's Word, is the sobering part of our Christian experience.

To get lost in books for hours is meaningless unless you apply the truths of God's Word.

God does use the Ph.D.'s of course, but they must come humble, and never on the basis of their own knowledge and worth.

Here Jesus is rejoicing that the simple were being used so profoundly, and understand when the power of God uses you in this life, your heart cannot help but rejoice as well.

There is joy in our offering and service to the Lord.

I challenge you to sign up for VBS this year, and come humbly here to be used by God for those 2 days, and if your heart is not thumping with excitement and joy, I will be shocked.

You will be tired and exhausted, but there is no greater thrill in this life than to be used by our God.

It is lasting too, nothing compares to it.

Jesus also says here in verse 22 that all things have been handed to Him by the Father, and no one can know the Father without the Son, or the Son without the Father, and those who are blessed in this life whom Jesus reveals it too.

Jesus and the Father are one God, two parts of a Trinity that includes the Holy Spirit.

Today many say they want to know who God is, and it is simple really, look at Jesus.

Look to God's Word and find Jesus, and in Him you will know God.

If you do not know God this morning, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Him to you through His Word.

He will not be found through an intellectual quest, or deep Yoga Meditation, or through religious rite; He is found through a relationship and the Spirit's revelation in God's Word.

Meet Jesus, and you will know God.

Verse 23 now...

23 Then He turned to His disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; 24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it."

These disciples were privileged to be a witness of things that prophets and kings of the past longed to see.

It was the hope of generations of Jews to be the generation that beheld the Messiah.

And Jesus was on earth, and His ministry was reversing the works of the devil, and the work of the harvest had begun.

Yet today, we live in an even greater age, the age of Grace, post-cross, where the Spirit is using the Church

to bring this world into an understanding of who their Savior is.

Paul called the church age a mystery, and said

Col 1:26-29 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Christ, in our age works in us and through us, as we preach His Gospel, you see, we live in the most privileged time, where mankind comes through the door of Grace.

Today we are sowers of God's Word, the Harvest in our age speaks of a coming Judgement and sifting, between wheat and weeds.

Ours is the last dispensation before Judgment comes to this earth, and the Lord of the Harvest is coming soon for His church, and after Seven years of judgement, Jesus will come back to this earth to rule and reign.

The disciples had a unique position in that they saw Jesus' earthly ministry, but today, Jesus works through us, and understand, as real as He was tangibly with those disciples, He is here today through His Spirit.

His Spirit ever since Pentecost has led the church, built the church, added to the church and used the church to prepare for the final harvest.

Peter tells us of the hope of the prophets of the past, and how now even the angels are amazed of the way God's Grace is bestowed upon us, and distributed through us and the Gospel we preach.

1 Peter 1:10-12 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into.

Church, we live in such a privileged time, the prophets of old foretold of our day of Grace, and the Cross of Christ that prepared the way.

Understand, as we have seen today, with great privilege comes great responsibility.

And today the witness is ever greater, yet the rejection of Truth ever fiercer.

Today, men mock and scorn our message, yet it is the only message that will save from the great judgement that awaits every man and woman.

If this morning, you have heard this message, and maybe you have heard this Gospel multiple times, and your heart has rejected it, understand the cost is great, the scriptures are clear, the judgement will be fierce.

Today Jesus stands at the door of your heart, and He is knocking, and if you have not opened your heart and life to Him, please do so this morning, during this last song, there will be men up here who want to pray with you.

You can come this morning to God through His Son Jesus, through faith, by Grace alone.

Jesus paid the price of your sin in full, you only have to come and receive it.

Jesus loves you greatly, after you give your life to Him, you can expect that He has a great plan to use your life, and you can experience the joy of being used by Jesus, as you go out in this world preaching the Good news of the Gospel of Grace.

You can share your testimony and let the world know that our God lives, He lives in you, and He is available to all who would come to Him.

What a wonderful opportunity we all have this morning.

Let's Pray...

These men are here to pray with you, perhaps you want to be used in the ministry, but you do not know where or how.

Come up and get prayer, the starting point is always prayer.

Find your place in this time of Grace... God has a place for you.