

**Jesus sends out the 72 'others' (the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave) - Luke 10:1-24****Cavy Bap - 7-8-2016**

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[Luke 10:1-24 - Jesus sends out the 72 'others' / the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave](#)

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

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<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

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<sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

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<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." <sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

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<sup>22</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." <sup>23</sup> Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Introduction / Background**

The text starts with 'After this...' refers to Luke chapter 9. Jesus has been teaching a very costly discipleship. The focus isn't about free salvation, but rather a costly following of Jesus. Recap...

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

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[Luke 9 - Costly discipleship](#)

<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

One man said 'I will follow you, but 1<sup>st</sup> let me go and bury my father'. Jesus responded 'let the dead bury the dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God'. Another man said 'I will follow you, but 1<sup>st</sup> let me go and say goodbye to my family'. Jesus responded 'Who ever puts their hand to plough and looks back, is not fit for service in the kingdom of God'.

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What's happening here? Our Western culture can't really understand this. In the Middle Eastern culture of Jesus (and today), and the South Asian culture our family lived in - family loyalty and responsibilities take precedence over almost everything. There is a huge focus on traditional family values, family honour, family loyalty, respect for parents and hospitality. For Jesus to say, forget about your Father or your family, is an outrageous challenge to family loyalties and cultural norms.

The NZ Baptist Mission in Bangladesh had 2 Hindu cooks. One cook Garongo, almost entered the waters of Christian baptism, but his Mum called out 'Garongo!' and he backed away from the water and from following Jesus. He died 5 years ago. Another cook Bina from a dirt poor family decided to marry a much older Christian, who would offer some security for her and her family. But 1<sup>st</sup> she needed to become a Christian, and this was going to involve baptism. In that context, Baptism is a sign of following Jesus. Her biggest concern, discussed at length, was '*who will manage my Mother's cremation when she dies, if I can't*' (...but 1<sup>st</sup> let me bury my Mother). After much discussion, Bina was baptised and went onto the Christian marriage. Following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms. We read more of these issues in Luke 10...

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### **Part 1 - Invitation to mission**

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[Luke 10:1-4, then 5-9](#)

Jesus sends out 72 'others' on a mission, into towns he will pass through on his way to Jerusalem. This is almost identical to Luke 9, where Jesus sends out the 12 disciples into mission. Some writers refer to this as the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission (2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave). But, this is not the close inner circle of the famous '12'. This the next layer out, of ordinary people, referred to simply as the 'others' (no names). They're most likely un-educated and have certainly never studied systematic theology at bible college (there weren't any), or completed a New Testament overview (it hadn't been written). We're not told how long the mission was, but I'm guessing a few weeks. They go 2 by 2, I guess for company, encouragement and safety. The harvest is plentiful and ready, but there is a narrow window of time in which to pick or collect the fruit. They are to pray for more fruit pickers. However, Jesus also warns them, they will be like 'lambs among wolves' - similar to our saying 'like lambs to the slaughter'. Despite the danger, they're not told to take a sword, spear, club or a sling-shot for protection. In fact, they're told to travel light, without money bag, luggage or spare sandals. This is radical dependence on God's provision for safety, travel, food and accommodation. Jesus then says 'do not greet anyone on the way'. Referring back to what I said about their traditional culture - greetings are very important. But they also take a long time and lead to cups of tea. Again, Jesus shocks his listeners, by being counter cultural, to be 'task focused'!

### **Application today**

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The days of following Jesus into mission are not over. Jesus is calling you and me like the 72 'others' into local Dunedin mission. I'm not so sure our current NZ context is so ripe for harvest. NZ society is very secular and generally very dismissive towards the Christian church. But, there is witness to be said, love to be shown, prayer to be prayed. Those that go fishing eventually catch fish. We also are like lambs surrounded by wolves, who would happily see the church disappear. Our response to the wolves is the same - words of love, acts of kindness and prayerful hope.

What about our money, baggage and spare sandals? Our society encourages us to buy, consume and grow assets - as fast as we can. But, having all this stuff... leads to 'stuffocation', trapping us

like a bird in a straight jacket which can't fly anymore. We need to be set free from this insatiable accumulation and unnecessary debt... so we can join Jesus' mission. I once heard a preacher say, 'we can't get into heaven with a grand piano on our back'. No offence to musicians, I own 3 guitars - but the picture of people weighed down and drowning in stuff still stands.

The comment 'do not greet anyone on the way' - warns us of involvement in too many things, too many pursuits, too many interests, and too many other good opportunities. Saying yes to Jesus and his mission, means saying no to some other things. I supervised a wonderful young man who spent a short time in Bangladesh. He was considering his long term mission options. In my very positive report to Carey Baptist College, I wrote: 'he's incredibly talented - intelligent, gifted at language, understands community development, is musical (writing and performing) and very computer savvy. His challenge will be to decide on one mission path, as this will require saying no to others'.  
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13 Luke 10:5-9

We're not told much about the mission strategy. There was no 'mission manual'. This was the 'learn as you go' model, a bit like medical surgeons, who 'watch one, do one and teach one'. Finding a house which is inviting, offers food and lodging, and staying put while doing local mission activities made good sense. 'Finding a person of peace' - refers to people who support the work. Stay with them and receive their contribution to the cause. In a similar way, finding a welcoming house and village is a good place for apprentices to try some mission activities.

Jesus told them to 'to heal the sick' and to 'preach that the kingdom of God has come near to them'. Jesus' message was always that God's kingdom - God's presence, reality, values, rule and shalom has begun to come in Jesus. Healing is a sign of the reality of God's Kingdom.

#### Application today

14 What might mission to Dunedin look like? Very similar... We'll tell of God's love expressed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, inviting people to respond. We'll witness in different ways to different people in different contexts - according to our interests, personalities, skills, gifts, time and money. Witness in the workplace is different to at school, or with neighbours. We'll do a mix of mission activities, based on Jesus' example - expressed through: 'word' - sharing about God's love and redemptive purposes, 'deed' - caring for people in practical ways, and 'sign' - prayer for change and healing in people's lives. A signpost pointing to God.

I'll share 1 example of local mission from 1986. I was 25, working as an engineer, attending New Plymouth Central Baptist. Someone suggested that 'we' (the youth group and my friends) do a kids outreach to support Bell Block Baptist (churches helping each other!). Despite having no experience, I ended up in charge. We called it the 'Christmas Surprise', ideal for advertising and a great theme. It ran for 4 days, 9am to 3pm, up to Christmas Eve. We had 85 local kids (50% non-church) come. There were games, songs, clowning, puppets, Bible stories, kites, and a barbeque and movie evening for parents. By the end, on Christmas Eve afternoon, we were absolutely exhausted, and my throat was raging. But we'd done it! I sometimes wonder what happened to the 85 local kids in later years. Please note, this is just 1 approach to outreach. Yours will be different.

#### **Part 2 - Warning about response**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

15 Luke 10:10-16

Jesus warns them that a response is always required to God. If a village rejects you, 'wipe the dust from your feet' and move on. It's even more serious for people who have heard about or experienced the Kingdom of God and have rejected it. They'll be in a worse situation than the

famously evil Sodom which was destroyed back in Genesis 19. 'Too whom much has been given, much is expected'. Chorazin, Bethsaida and especially Capernaum, had hosted Jesus' teaching and miracles, and not responded. They're worse off than Tyre and Sidon where Jesus had never been.

Jesus delegates to his followers amazing authority. Listening to them, equates to listening to Jesus, and ... rejecting them, equates to rejecting Jesus and God. God works through his people.

#### Application today

16 Questions: Have Dunedin people had opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - in the past? Do they have opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - today?

### **Part 3 - Mission report back**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

17 [Luke 10:17-21](#)

The 72 'others' report back full of joy and enthusiasm. Their faith has been built up. They were not eaten by wolves. Somehow, they survived very well, without their money bag, luggage or spare sandals. They experienced 'power encounters' and defeated demons in the name of Jesus. Even snakes and scorpions were no problem. Not a bad outcome. Jesus, I think was smiling. He saw Satan (or evil) defeated. The 'learn as you go' mission model produced good results.

But, even more important than defeating evil, or escaping harm, they have salvation, their names are written in the book of life. They haven't fallen away. God is working through them, as ordinary people... like 'little children' compared to the 'wise and learned'.

#### Application today

18 Questions: Have you ever experienced the joy (and unknown) of local mission with Jesus? Have you experienced your faith built up through co-working with God? Have you seen bad situations become good? But most importantly, are you assured of your own salvation through God's grace? There are plenty of superstar Christians who challenged us ordinary people, who have fallen away.

### **Part 4 - It's all about Jesus**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

19 [Luke 10:22-24](#)

Jesus reminds the 72 'others'... It's all about Jesus: God is revealed in Jesus. Jesus reveals God. The way to God is through Jesus.

#### Application today

20 If you're not sure of what God is like? Follow Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

21 As we said at the start... following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms...

- I want to encourage you, enthuse you and challenge you to join Jesus in local mission. As the Blues Brothers movie said, 'We're on a Mission from God'. But we have 2 issues...
- Are we prepared to travel a little more lightly (without money bag, luggage and spare sandals) freeing up our lives and resources for local mission?
- Are we prepared to say 'no' to some other activities (greeting less people on the road) freeing up our lives and time for local mission?

If your answer is 'yes', I invite you to come forward for prayer and encouragement at the end. End.

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6

<sup>22</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." <sup>23</sup> Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

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The text starts with 'After this...' refers to Luke chapter 9. Jesus has been teaching a very costly discipleship. The focus isn't about free salvation, but rather a costly following of Jesus. Recap...

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The NZ Baptist Mission in Bangladesh had 2 Hindu cooks. One cook Garongo, almost entered the waters of Christian baptism, but his Mum called out 'Garongo!' and he backed away from the water and from following Jesus. He died 5 years ago. Another cook Bina from a dirt poor family decided to marry a much older Christian, who would offer some security for her and her family. But 1<sup>st</sup> she needed to become a Christian, and this was going to involve baptism. In that context, Baptism is a sign of following Jesus. Her biggest concern, discussed at length, was '*who will manage my Mother's cremation when she dies, if I can't*' (...but 1<sup>st</sup> let me bury my Mother). After much discussion, Bina was baptised and went onto the Christian marriage. Following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms. We read more of these issues in Luke 10...

9

10

### **Part 1 - Invitation to mission**

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11

[Luke 10:1-4, then 5-9](#)

Jesus sends out 72 'others' on a mission, into towns he will pass through on his way to Jerusalem. This is almost identical to Luke 9, where Jesus sends out the 12 disciples into mission. Some writers refer to this as the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission (2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave). But, this is not the close inner circle of the famous '12'. This the next layer out, of ordinary people, referred to simply as the 'others' (no names). They're most likely un-educated and have certainly never studied systematic theology at bible college (there weren't any), or completed a New Testament overview (it hadn't been written). We're not told how long the mission was, but I'm guessing a few weeks. They go 2 by 2, I guess for company, encouragement and safety. The harvest is plentiful and ready, but there is a narrow window of time in which to pick or collect the fruit. They are to pray for more fruit pickers. However, Jesus also warns them, they will be like 'lambs among wolves' - similar to our saying 'like lambs to the slaughter'. Despite the danger, they're not told to take a sword, spear, club or a sling-shot for protection. In fact, they're told to travel light, without money bag, luggage or spare sandals. This is radical dependence on God's provision for safety, travel, food and accommodation. Jesus then says 'do not greet anyone on the way'. Referring back to what I said about their traditional culture - greetings are very important. But they also take a long time and lead to cups of tea. Again, Jesus shocks his listeners, by being counter cultural, to be 'task focused'!

### **Application today**

12

The days of following Jesus into mission are not over. Jesus is calling you and me like the 72 'others' into local Dunedin mission. I'm not so sure our current NZ context is so ripe for harvest. NZ society is very secular and generally very dismissive towards the Christian church. But, there is witness to be said, love to be shown, prayer to be prayed. Those that go fishing eventually catch fish. We also are like lambs surrounded by wolves, who would happily see the church disappear. Our response to the wolves is the same - words of love, acts of kindness and prayerful hope.

What about our money, baggage and spare sandals? Our society encourages us to buy, consume and grow assets - as fast as we can. But, having all this stuff... leads to 'stuffocation', trapping us

like a bird in a straight jacket which can't fly anymore. We need to be set free from this insatiable accumulation and unnecessary debt... so we can join Jesus' mission. I once heard a preacher say, 'we can't get into heaven with a grand piano on our back'. No offence to musicians, I own 3 guitars - but the picture of people weighed down and drowning in stuff still stands.

The comment 'do not greet anyone on the way' - warns us of involvement in too many things, too many pursuits, too many interests, and too many other good opportunities. Saying yes to Jesus and his mission, means saying no to some other things. I supervised a wonderful young man who spent a short time in Bangladesh. He was considering his long term mission options. In my very positive report to Carey Baptist College, I wrote: 'he's incredibly talented - intelligent, gifted at language, understands community development, is musical (writing and performing) and very computer savvy. His challenge will be to decide on one mission path, as this will require saying no to others'.  
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13 Luke 10:5-9

We're not told much about the mission strategy. There was no 'mission manual'. This was the 'learn as you go' model, a bit like medical surgeons, who 'watch one, do one and teach one'. Finding a house which is inviting, offers food and lodging, and staying put while doing local mission activities made good sense. 'Finding a person of peace' - refers to people who support the work. Stay with them and receive their contribution to the cause. In a similar way, finding a welcoming house and village is a good place for apprentices to try some mission activities.

Jesus told them to 'to heal the sick' and to 'preach that the kingdom of God has come near to them'. Jesus' message was always that God's kingdom - God's presence, reality, values, rule and shalom has begun to come in Jesus. Healing is a sign of the reality of God's Kingdom.

#### Application today

14 What might mission to Dunedin look like? Very similar... We'll tell of God's love expressed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, inviting people to respond. We'll witness in different ways to different people in different contexts - according to our interests, personalities, skills, gifts, time and money. Witness in the workplace is different to at school, or with neighbours. We'll do a mix of mission activities, based on Jesus' example - expressed through: 'word' - sharing about God's love and redemptive purposes, 'deed' - caring for people in practical ways, and 'sign' - prayer for change and healing in people's lives. A signpost pointing to God.

I'll share 1 example of local mission from 1986. I was 25, working as an engineer, attending New Plymouth Central Baptist. Someone suggested that 'we' (the youth group and my friends) do a kids outreach to support Bell Block Baptist (churches helping each other!). Despite having no experience, I ended up in charge. We called it the 'Christmas Surprise', ideal for advertising and a great theme. It ran for 4 days, 9am to 3pm, up to Christmas Eve. We had 85 local kids (50% non-church) come. There were games, songs, clowning, puppets, Bible stories, kites, and a barbeque and movie evening for parents. By the end, on Christmas Eve afternoon, we were absolutely exhausted, and my throat was raging. But we'd done it! I sometimes wonder what happened to the 85 local kids in later years. Please note, this is just 1 approach to outreach. Yours will be different.

#### **Part 2 - Warning about response**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

15 Luke 10:10-16

Jesus warns them that a response is always required to God. If a village rejects you, 'wipe the dust from your feet' and move on. It's even more serious for people who have heard about or experienced the Kingdom of God and have rejected it. They'll be in a worse situation than the

famously evil Sodom which was destroyed back in Genesis 19. 'Too whom much has been given, much is expected'. Chorazin, Bethsaida and especially Capernaum, had hosted Jesus' teaching and miracles, and not responded. They're worse off than Tyre and Sidon where Jesus had never been.

Jesus delegates to his followers amazing authority. Listening to them, equates to listening to Jesus, and ... rejecting them, equates to rejecting Jesus and God. God works through his people.

#### Application today

16 Questions: Have Dunedin people had opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - in the past? Do they have opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - today?

### **Part 3 - Mission report back**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

17 [Luke 10:17-21](#)

The 72 'others' report back full of joy and enthusiasm. Their faith has been built up. They were not eaten by wolves. Somehow, they survived very well, without their money bag, luggage or spare sandals. They experienced 'power encounters' and defeated demons in the name of Jesus. Even snakes and scorpions were no problem. Not a bad outcome. Jesus, I think was smiling. He saw Satan (or evil) defeated. The 'learn as you go' mission model produced good results.

But, even more important than defeating evil, or escaping harm, they have salvation, their names are written in the book of life. They haven't fallen away. God is working through them, as ordinary people... like 'little children' compared to the 'wise and learned'.

#### Application today

18 Questions: Have you ever experienced the joy (and unknown) of local mission with Jesus? Have you experienced your faith built up through co-working with God? Have you seen bad situations become good? But most importantly, are you assured of your own salvation through God's grace? There are plenty of superstar Christians who challenged us ordinary people, who have fallen away.

### **Part 4 - It's all about Jesus**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

19 [Luke 10:22-24](#)

Jesus reminds the 72 'others'... It's all about Jesus: God is revealed in Jesus. Jesus reveals God. The way to God is through Jesus.

#### Application today

20 If you're not sure of what God is like? Follow Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

21 As we said at the start... following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms...

- I want to encourage you, enthuse you and challenge you to join Jesus in local mission. As the Blues Brothers movie said, 'We're on a Mission from God'. But we have 2 issues...
- Are we prepared to travel a little more lightly (without money bag, luggage and spare sandals) freeing up our lives and resources for local mission?
- Are we prepared to say 'no' to some other activities (greeting less people on the road) freeing up our lives and time for local mission?

If your answer is 'yes', I invite you to come forward for prayer and encouragement at the end. End.

**Jesus sends out the 72 'others' (the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave) - Luke 10:1-24****Cavy Bap - 7-8-2016**

2

[Luke 10:1-24 - Jesus sends out the 72 'others' / the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave](#)

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

3

<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

4

<sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

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9

10

### **Part 1 - Invitation to mission**

>>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

11

[Luke 10:1-4, then 5-9](#)

Jesus sends out 72 'others' on a mission, into towns he will pass through on his way to Jerusalem. This is almost identical to Luke 9, where Jesus sends out the 12 disciples into mission. Some writers refer to this as the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission (2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave). But, this is not the close inner circle of the famous '12'. This the next layer out, of ordinary people, referred to simply as the 'others' (no names). They're most likely un-educated and have certainly never studied systematic theology at bible college (there weren't any), or completed a New Testament overview (it hadn't been written). We're not told how long the mission was, but I'm guessing a few weeks. They go 2 by 2, I guess for company, encouragement and safety. The harvest is plentiful and ready, but there is a narrow window of time in which to pick or collect the fruit. They are to pray for more fruit pickers. However, Jesus also warns them, they will be like 'lambs among wolves' - similar to our saying 'like lambs to the slaughter'. Despite the danger, they're not told to take a sword, spear, club or a sling-shot for protection. In fact, they're told to travel light, without money bag, luggage or spare sandals. This is radical dependence on God's provision for safety, travel, food and accommodation. Jesus then says 'do not greet anyone on the way'. Referring back to what I said about their traditional culture - greetings are very important. But they also take a long time and lead to cups of tea. Again, Jesus shocks his listeners, by being counter cultural, to be 'task focused'!

### **Application today**

12

The days of following Jesus into mission are not over. Jesus is calling you and me like the 72 'others' into local Dunedin mission. I'm not so sure our current NZ context is so ripe for harvest. NZ society is very secular and generally very dismissive towards the Christian church. But, there is witness to be said, love to be shown, prayer to be prayed. Those that go fishing eventually catch fish. We also are like lambs surrounded by wolves, who would happily see the church disappear. Our response to the wolves is the same - words of love, acts of kindness and prayerful hope.

What about our money, baggage and spare sandals? Our society encourages us to buy, consume and grow assets - as fast as we can. But, having all this stuff... leads to 'stuffocation', trapping us

like a bird in a straight jacket which can't fly anymore. We need to be set free from this insatiable accumulation and unnecessary debt... so we can join Jesus' mission. I once heard a preacher say, 'we can't get into heaven with a grand piano on our back'. No offence to musicians, I own 3 guitars - but the picture of people weighed down and drowning in stuff still stands.

The comment 'do not greet anyone on the way' - warns us of involvement in too many things, too many pursuits, too many interests, and too many other good opportunities. Saying yes to Jesus and his mission, means saying no to some other things. I supervised a wonderful young man who spent a short time in Bangladesh. He was considering his long term mission options. In my very positive report to Carey Baptist College, I wrote: 'he's incredibly talented - intelligent, gifted at language, understands community development, is musical (writing and performing) and very computer savvy. His challenge will be to decide on one mission path, as this will require saying no to others'.  
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13 Luke 10:5-9

We're not told much about the mission strategy. There was no 'mission manual'. This was the 'learn as you go' model, a bit like medical surgeons, who 'watch one, do one and teach one'. Finding a house which is inviting, offers food and lodging, and staying put while doing local mission activities made good sense. 'Finding a person of peace' - refers to people who support the work. Stay with them and receive their contribution to the cause. In a similar way, finding a welcoming house and village is a good place for apprentices to try some mission activities.

Jesus told them to 'to heal the sick' and to 'preach that the kingdom of God has come near to them'. Jesus' message was always that God's kingdom - God's presence, reality, values, rule and shalom has begun to come in Jesus. Healing is a sign of the reality of God's Kingdom.

#### Application today

14 What might mission to Dunedin look like? Very similar... We'll tell of God's love expressed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, inviting people to respond. We'll witness in different ways to different people in different contexts - according to our interests, personalities, skills, gifts, time and money. Witness in the workplace is different to at school, or with neighbours. We'll do a mix of mission activities, based on Jesus' example - expressed through: 'word' - sharing about God's love and redemptive purposes, 'deed' - caring for people in practical ways, and 'sign' - prayer for change and healing in people's lives. A signpost pointing to God.

I'll share 1 example of local mission from 1986. I was 25, working as an engineer, attending New Plymouth Central Baptist. Someone suggested that 'we' (the youth group and my friends) do a kids outreach to support Bell Block Baptist (churches helping each other!). Despite having no experience, I ended up in charge. We called it the 'Christmas Surprise', ideal for advertising and a great theme. It ran for 4 days, 9am to 3pm, up to Christmas Eve. We had 85 local kids (50% non-church) come. There were games, songs, clowning, puppets, Bible stories, kites, and a barbeque and movie evening for parents. By the end, on Christmas Eve afternoon, we were absolutely exhausted, and my throat was raging. But we'd done it! I sometimes wonder what happened to the 85 local kids in later years. Please note, this is just 1 approach to outreach. Yours will be different.

#### **Part 2 - Warning about response**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

15 Luke 10:10-16

Jesus warns them that a response is always required to God. If a village rejects you, 'wipe the dust from your feet' and move on. It's even more serious for people who have heard about or experienced the Kingdom of God and have rejected it. They'll be in a worse situation than the

famously evil Sodom which was destroyed back in Genesis 19. 'Too whom much has been given, much is expected'. Chorazin, Bethsaida and especially Capernaum, had hosted Jesus' teaching and miracles, and not responded. They're worse off than Tyre and Sidon where Jesus had never been.

Jesus delegates to his followers amazing authority. Listening to them, equates to listening to Jesus, and ... rejecting them, equates to rejecting Jesus and God. God works through his people.

#### Application today

16 Questions: Have Dunedin people had opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - in the past? Do they have opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - today?

### **Part 3 - Mission report back**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

17 [Luke 10:17-21](#)

The 72 'others' report back full of joy and enthusiasm. Their faith has been built up. They were not eaten by wolves. Somehow, they survived very well, without their money bag, luggage or spare sandals. They experienced 'power encounters' and defeated demons in the name of Jesus. Even snakes and scorpions were no problem. Not a bad outcome. Jesus, I think was smiling. He saw Satan (or evil) defeated. The 'learn as you go' mission model produced good results.

But, even more important than defeating evil, or escaping harm, they have salvation, their names are written in the book of life. They haven't fallen away. God is working through them, as ordinary people... like 'little children' compared to the 'wise and learned'.

#### Application today

18 Questions: Have you ever experienced the joy (and unknown) of local mission with Jesus? Have you experienced your faith built up through co-working with God? Have you seen bad situations become good? But most importantly, are you assured of your own salvation through God's grace? There are plenty of superstar Christians who challenged us ordinary people, who have fallen away.

### **Part 4 - It's all about Jesus**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

19 [Luke 10:22-24](#)

Jesus reminds the 72 'others'... It's all about Jesus: God is revealed in Jesus. Jesus reveals God. The way to God is through Jesus.

#### Application today

20 If you're not sure of what God is like? Follow Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

21 As we said at the start... following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms...

- I want to encourage you, enthuse you and challenge you to join Jesus in local mission. As the Blues Brothers movie said, 'We're on a Mission from God'. But we have 2 issues...
- Are we prepared to travel a little more lightly (without money bag, luggage and spare sandals) freeing up our lives and resources for local mission?
- Are we prepared to say 'no' to some other activities (greeting less people on the road) freeing up our lives and time for local mission?

If your answer is 'yes', I invite you to come forward for prayer and encouragement at the end. End.

**Jesus sends out the 72 'others' (the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave) - Luke 10:1-24****Cavy Bap - 7-8-2016**

2

[Luke 10:1-24 - Jesus sends out the 72 'others' / the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave](#)

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

3

<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

4

<sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

5

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." <sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

6

<sup>22</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." <sup>23</sup> Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Introduction / Background**

The text starts with 'After this...' refers to Luke chapter 9. Jesus has been teaching a very costly discipleship. The focus isn't about free salvation, but rather a costly following of Jesus. Recap...

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### **Application today**

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The days of following Jesus into mission are not over. Jesus is calling you and me like the 72 'others' into local Dunedin mission. I'm not so sure our current NZ context is so ripe for harvest. NZ society is very secular and generally very dismissive towards the Christian church. But, there is witness to be said, love to be shown, prayer to be prayed. Those that go fishing eventually catch fish. We also are like lambs surrounded by wolves, who would happily see the church disappear. Our response to the wolves is the same - words of love, acts of kindness and prayerful hope.

What about our money, baggage and spare sandals? Our society encourages us to buy, consume and grow assets - as fast as we can. But, having all this stuff... leads to 'stuffocation', trapping us

like a bird in a straight jacket which can't fly anymore. We need to be set free from this insatiable accumulation and unnecessary debt... so we can join Jesus' mission. I once heard a preacher say, 'we can't get into heaven with a grand piano on our back'. No offence to musicians, I own 3 guitars - but the picture of people weighed down and drowning in stuff still stands.

The comment 'do not greet anyone on the way' - warns us of involvement in too many things, too many pursuits, too many interests, and too many other good opportunities. Saying yes to Jesus and his mission, means saying no to some other things. I supervised a wonderful young man who spent a short time in Bangladesh. He was considering his long term mission options. In my very positive report to Carey Baptist College, I wrote: 'he's incredibly talented - intelligent, gifted at language, understands community development, is musical (writing and performing) and very computer savvy. His challenge will be to decide on one mission path, as this will require saying no to others'.  
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13 Luke 10:5-9

We're not told much about the mission strategy. There was no 'mission manual'. This was the 'learn as you go' model, a bit like medical surgeons, who 'watch one, do one and teach one'. Finding a house which is inviting, offers food and lodging, and staying put while doing local mission activities made good sense. 'Finding a person of peace' - refers to people who support the work. Stay with them and receive their contribution to the cause. In a similar way, finding a welcoming house and village is a good place for apprentices to try some mission activities.

Jesus told them to 'to heal the sick' and to 'preach that the kingdom of God has come near to them'. Jesus' message was always that God's kingdom - God's presence, reality, values, rule and shalom has begun to come in Jesus. Healing is a sign of the reality of God's Kingdom.

#### Application today

14 What might mission to Dunedin look like? Very similar... We'll tell of God's love expressed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, inviting people to respond. We'll witness in different ways to different people in different contexts - according to our interests, personalities, skills, gifts, time and money. Witness in the workplace is different to at school, or with neighbours. We'll do a mix of mission activities, based on Jesus' example - expressed through: 'word' - sharing about God's love and redemptive purposes, 'deed' - caring for people in practical ways, and 'sign' - prayer for change and healing in people's lives. A signpost pointing to God.

I'll share 1 example of local mission from 1986. I was 25, working as an engineer, attending New Plymouth Central Baptist. Someone suggested that 'we' (the youth group and my friends) do a kids outreach to support Bell Block Baptist (churches helping each other!). Despite having no experience, I ended up in charge. We called it the 'Christmas Surprise', ideal for advertising and a great theme. It ran for 4 days, 9am to 3pm, up to Christmas Eve. We had 85 local kids (50% non-church) come. There were games, songs, clowning, puppets, Bible stories, kites, and a barbeque and movie evening for parents. By the end, on Christmas Eve afternoon, we were absolutely exhausted, and my throat was raging. But we'd done it! I sometimes wonder what happened to the 85 local kids in later years. Please note, this is just 1 approach to outreach. Yours will be different.

#### **Part 2 - Warning about response**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

15 Luke 10:10-16

Jesus warns them that a response is always required to God. If a village rejects you, 'wipe the dust from your feet' and move on. It's even more serious for people who have heard about or experienced the Kingdom of God and have rejected it. They'll be in a worse situation than the

famously evil Sodom which was destroyed back in Genesis 19. 'Too whom much has been given, much is expected'. Chorazin, Bethsaida and especially Capernaum, had hosted Jesus' teaching and miracles, and not responded. They're worse off than Tyre and Sidon where Jesus had never been.

Jesus delegates to his followers amazing authority. Listening to them, equates to listening to Jesus, and ... rejecting them, equates to rejecting Jesus and God. God works through his people.

#### Application today

16 Questions: Have Dunedin people had opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - in the past? Do they have opportunities to hear, experience and respond to God - today?

### **Part 3 - Mission report back**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

17 [Luke 10:17-21](#)

The 72 'others' report back full of joy and enthusiasm. Their faith has been built up. They were not eaten by wolves. Somehow, they survived very well, without their money bag, luggage or spare sandals. They experienced 'power encounters' and defeated demons in the name of Jesus. Even snakes and scorpions were no problem. Not a bad outcome. Jesus, I think was smiling. He saw Satan (or evil) defeated. The 'learn as you go' mission model produced good results.

But, even more important than defeating evil, or escaping harm, they have salvation, their names are written in the book of life. They haven't fallen away. God is working through them, as ordinary people... like 'little children' compared to the 'wise and learned'.

#### Application today

18 Questions: Have you ever experienced the joy (and unknown) of local mission with Jesus? Have you experienced your faith built up through co-working with God? Have you seen bad situations become good? But most importantly, are you assured of your own salvation through God's grace? There are plenty of superstar Christians who challenged us ordinary people, who have fallen away.

### **Part 4 - It's all about Jesus**

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

19 [Luke 10:22-24](#)

Jesus reminds the 72 'others'... It's all about Jesus: God is revealed in Jesus. Jesus reveals God. The way to God is through Jesus.

#### Application today

20 If you're not sure of what God is like? Follow Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

21 As we said at the start... following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms...

- I want to encourage you, enthuse you and challenge you to join Jesus in local mission. As the Blues Brothers movie said, 'We're on a Mission from God'. But we have 2 issues...
- Are we prepared to travel a little more lightly (without money bag, luggage and spare sandals) freeing up our lives and resources for local mission?
- Are we prepared to say 'no' to some other activities (greeting less people on the road) freeing up our lives and time for local mission?

If your answer is 'yes', I invite you to come forward for prayer and encouragement at the end. End.

**Jesus sends out the 72 'others' (the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave) - Luke 10:1-24****Cavy Bap - 7-8-2016**

2

[Luke 10:1-24 - Jesus sends out the 72 'others' / the 2<sup>nd</sup> mission wave](#)

<sup>1</sup> After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

3

<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. <sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

4

<sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. <sup>13</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>14</sup> But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. <sup>15</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. <sup>16</sup> "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

5

<sup>17</sup> The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." <sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

6

<sup>22</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." <sup>23</sup> Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

**Introduction / Background**

The text starts with 'After this...' refers to Luke chapter 9. Jesus has been teaching a very costly discipleship. The focus isn't about free salvation, but rather a costly following of Jesus. Recap...

>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

7

[Luke 9 - Costly discipleship](#)

<sup>59</sup> He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family." <sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

One man said 'I will follow you, but 1<sup>st</sup> let me go and bury my father'. Jesus responded 'let the dead bury the dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God'. Another man said 'I will follow you, but 1<sup>st</sup> let me go and say goodbye to my family'. Jesus responded 'Who ever puts their hand to plough and looks back, is not fit for service in the kingdom of God'.

8

What's happening here? Our Western culture can't really understand this. In the Middle Eastern culture of Jesus (and today), and the South Asian culture our family lived in - family loyalty and responsibilities take precedence over almost everything. There is a huge focus on traditional family values, family honour, family loyalty, respect for parents and hospitality. For Jesus to say, forget about your Father or your family, is an outrageous challenge to family loyalties and cultural norms.

The NZ Baptist Mission in Bangladesh had 2 Hindu cooks. One cook Garongo, almost entered the waters of Christian baptism, but his Mum called out 'Garongo!' and he backed away from the water and from following Jesus. He died 5 years ago. Another cook Bina from a dirt poor family decided to marry a much older Christian, who would offer some security for her and her family. But 1<sup>st</sup> she needed to become a Christian, and this was going to involve baptism. In that context, Baptism is a sign of following Jesus. Her biggest concern, discussed at length, was '*who will manage my Mother's cremation when she dies, if I can't*' (...but 1<sup>st</sup> let me bury my Mother). After much discussion, Bina was baptised and went onto the Christian marriage. Following Jesus, challenges our family loyalties and cultural norms. We read more of these issues in Luke 10...

9

10

### **Part 1 - Invitation to mission**

>>> (Text for PP, not reading out)

11

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