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| **Training Exercise for Evangelism**  *Promise: God will equip us to share the Gospel of Christ with others* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Isaiah 66:10-14; Ps 66:1-7; Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18; Luke 10:1-20 (4th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 9), 7/6/25)  *[Jesus said] “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”* – v. 16  **Lead In –** If you hear a knock at your door and when you go to answer it there are two people modestly dressed, with men often wearing a tie and women with a skirt or dress of modest length, and they have religious material with them, what religious group do they likely represent? Jehovah Witnesses, right? How many of you have had a pair of Jehovah Witnesses call upon you? If you were to ask them why they do their witnessing in pairs, they would very likely mention our Gospel Reading this morning where Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs. And we might ask ourselves, is that how we should do our witnessing as well? Door to door and in pairs? Keep that in mind as we consider the Gospel Reading…   1. **Jesus Then Sends 72 Disciples On Ahead of Him**    1. This is a specific mission for a specific purpose…    2. These are places Jesus Himself was about to go…    3. They were to heal the sick and declare the nearness… 2. **Is This A General Command and Promise?...**    1. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals…    2. The authority to do exorcisms and healings…    3. On being sent to other towns and places… 3. **Things You Can Count in Jesus’ Mission…**    1. The authority and provision is God’s Word… messengers    2. Not all fields are ripe for the harvest! …    3. Church’s diversity of gifts with which to evangelize…   **Final Word –** So, if you were worried that for a training exercise in evangelism, we would expect you to pair up and go door to door, you can take a deep breath. But don’t get too relaxed. You are not off the hook. Everyone has a role to play in seeing that evangelism is being done. Even if you are not called to be a foreign missionary, we all are to be willing to share with others how Jesus died and rose again so that we might be forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life. This we can do in the places where God has placed us. And we can all pray for and provide financial support for those whose calling depend on it. Please be in training for this ongoing mission of our Lord…  **Lk 9:1-2** And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.  **Mt 10:5-6** These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”  **Mt 3:1** In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”  **Mk 1:14-15** Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”  **Ac 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. | **Luke 10:1-20 ESV**  *Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two*  1After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. 2And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. 4Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. 5Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ 6And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. 7And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. 8Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. 9Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 11‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’ 12I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.  13“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. 15And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.  16“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”  17The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”  **1Pe 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.  **Lk 8:39** “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.  **Jn 4:35** Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.  **1Co 12:29-31** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. |