

CLASS: SS3
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: MISSION OF THE DISCIPLES
WEEK: 8
TERM: FIRST TERM

CONTENT

1. The Mission of the Twelve (Matt. 10:1-15; Mark 6:7-13)
2. The Mission of the Seventy (Luke 10:1-20)
3. Differences in the Synoptic Accounts of the Mission of the Twelve
4. The Achievements of the Twelve and Seventy Disciples

THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE (Matt. 10:1-15; Mark 6:7-13)

The mission of the disciples was part of Jesus' preparation of His followers for full evangelical activities. They had worked with Him for some time, and at this stage, He sent them out on their own for brief practice, as part of the training for the ministerial task ahead.

After Jesus had taught His disciples both privately and publicly, He decided to send them out to practice what they had learnt. The followings were the instructions given to the twelve disciples:

1. They were charged to preach that the kingdom of God is at hand.
2. They were given authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the leper and cast out unclean spirits.
3. They were directed to go only to the lost sheep of Israel and not the Gentiles or Samaritans. They were grouped two by two.
4. They were instructed to take no money, no belts, no bag, no staff, no two tunics, no sandals, no bread or food, for a labourer deserves food. Note instructions given.
5. They received healing powers freely; therefore they should give without payment.
6. They should salute every house with peace. If the house is worthy, their peace would abide with it, but if unworthy their peace would return to them.
7. If anybody or town would not receive them or their words, they should shake off the dust of the place from their sandals and go, as they leave the house or town, this will stand in judgement against such people.

THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTY

(Luke 10:1-20)

The instructions given to the seventy were similar to those of the twelve sent earlier. Jesus sent the seventy ahead of him, they were sent two by two into every town and place He Himself was about to come.

Note Instructions Given

1. They were not to carry purse, bag and sandals.
2. They were not to salute anyone on the road.
3. Whatever house they enter, they should first say "Peace be to this house". "And if the son of peace is there your peace shall rest upon him, but if not, it shall return to you."
4. They are to remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for a labourer deserves his wages.
5. When they enter a town and they receive them, they are to heal the sick in it and preach to them that "the kingdom of God has come near."
6. If they are not received, they should go into the streets and say, even the dust of your town that cling to our feet, we wipe off against you. The punishment of such people on the Day of Judgment would be more serious than those of the idolatrous cities of Tyre and Sidon who would have repented if they had such opportunities abused by the Jews.

Differences in the Synoptic Accounts of the Mission of the Twelve

1. Matthew had the Jewish audience in mind; Luke has a more universal outlook. Matthew alone records that Jesus instructed His disciples to go nowhere among the Gentiles and not to enter any house of the Samaritans, but to go to the lost house of Israel. Mark and Luke were silent on this.
2. Matthew made mention of Gomorrah, while Luke and Mark were silent about it.
3. Mark alone records that the disciples were sent out in twos. Luke and Matthew did not point this out.
4. Matthew's account does not allow staff and sandals, whereas Mark allows them.
5. Only Matthew stated that the disciples would be persecuted for the sake of the gospel.
6. Only Matthew mentioned the names of the disciples, who were sent on the mission. Mark and Luke were silent on this.

The Achievements of the Twelve and Seventy Disciples

Mark recorded that the disciples made tremendous achievements. They were able to cast out demons, and anointed with oil sick people and healed them.

The seventy returned with joy, recounting how they were able to cast out demons in the name of Jesus; how demons obeyed them, hearing the name – Jesus. Jesus was thrilled and even conferred on them more powers, especially over serpents, scorpions and even Satan himself.

However, Jesus admonished them not to rejoice as a result of the success of their mission, especially their triumph over the demons, but because their names had been written in the book of life in heaven.

Differences and Similarities in the Mission of the Twelve and the Seventy Disciples

ASSIGNMENT

1. Compare and contrast the accounts of the mission of the twelve and of the seventy.