

THE SENDING OF THE SEVENTY
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

I. I SAW SATAN FALL

- A. *The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven" (Luke 10:17-18).*
- B. The Rest of the Story.
 - 1. Let's start at the end of the story.
 - 2. The seventy came back and they were overjoyed!
- C. The Result of Our Life and Ministry.
 - 1. Close your eyes and think for a moment. Has there ever been a time when Jesus, looking at your life and ministry, has said, "I saw Satan fall?"
 - 2. Shouldn't that be the result of our ministry – the fall of Satan.
- D. Satan Falls When ...
 - 1. You don't give in to greed: like Enron and WorldCom Executives; like Lotto fever.
 - 2. The single parent, overworked, overwhelmed, over-extended in time, money and energy, gets up and goes to church on the only day she has off.
 - 3. Addiction is faced: no more denial; no seeking fantasy journeys in drugs or alcohol or food.

II. BEING CONTAGIOUS

- A. *And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).*
- B. Hiding in Plain Sight.
 - 1. We hide in busyness, productivity, and accomplishments.
 - 2. We hide in organization because we hate chaos.
 - 3. We hide in frugality because we fear poverty.
- C. God's China Shop.
 - 1. "Every day you and I walk through God's shop. Every day we brush up against objects of incalculable worth to him .. Worth the life of my Son, the price tag says." (John Ortberg)
 - 2. "To love at all is to be vulnerable... The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers of love is Hell."
- D. Joy Germs and Belief Bacteria.
 - 1. Sin and suffering are not all that is contagious. So is enthusiasm and laughter and faith itself.
 - 2. Jesus says that "the kingdom of heaven is like leaven." (Mt.12:33)
 - 3. "The secret to spiritual life is not to isolate yourself from sin and suffering ... The secret is to be so filled with the life of Jesus that in touching the world, instead of its infecting us, we infect it."

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Jeanette Boatright, **Dan Fowlkes**, Dr. Gordon Freeman, Ron Gathright, Ruth Dale Hurt, Faye McDowell, Mary Jo Moore ... **Friends** – Shirley Adkins, Pat Bryan, Bill Dean, Tina Gatlin, Nancy Godsey, Kathy Greer, **Jackson Ingram**, Lucy Jones, Jeff Joyner, Ellen Kaplan, Lesli Kaplan, Dillon LaRue, Ron McMillan, Eddie Mae Schaeffer, Peggy Shipman, Mike Thompson, Shirley Waldron ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to the *family of Sue Crone* who died on Sunday, June 24 ...

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, you have brought us to this oasis of worship, and out of a life of hectic busyness we enter into it. For a moment, whether we come here grudgingly or with joy, let us be still and feel your closeness, and be renewed and refreshed and made whole again.

Some of us come here not knowing that it is the water of life for which we thirst, aware only that life hasn't satisfied us as we once thought it would. Here, in worship, we turn over our anxieties and frustrations to you.

Some of us come so full of joy at the promises of life that we must tell others about it. Hear our prayers of gratitude for people who love us, for good jobs, for a church and a home and a country we love.

Some of us come with our strength just about completely gone. We need power to get through another day; we need answers to some hard questions; we need to feel we aren't alone in our struggle. Let these moments bring us healing.

Now, bind us together into a family that knows we are all your children, and you come to meet us where we are. This is our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 10:1-11, 17-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and salute no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages; do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you; heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, '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.' ...

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

July 15	<i>Wholly Walking Holy</i>	Colossians 1:1-14
July 22	<i>Praying Like Jesus</i>	Matthew 6:5-15
July 29	<i>The Power of Persistence</i>	Luke 11:1-13

On the Radio (1450 AM):

July 15	<i>Hold the Fort!</i>	James 4:1-12
July 22	<i>Who's in Charge Here?</i>	James 4:13-17
July 29	<i>You Can't Take It with You</i>	James 5:1-6