

5 Sermon Notes for Lk. 10:17-20, I Lent

1. Read again the Sermon Notes for Lk. 9:1-6, Second Sunday before Lent. The texts from Lk. 9 and Lk. 10 are quite similar, but different.
2. The account of sending out the seventy is found only in Lk. 10:1-17. The other Gospels do not report it.
3. Evidently the seventy were sent to Perea and Judea where Jesus Himself was about to come. See vs. 2. The seventy would be defenseless. Vs. 3. But they were to trust in the Lord. Vss. 4, 7, 8. They were to preach the peace of God, the Gospel. Vss. 5, 6, 9. They were to heal the sick. Vs. 9. They were not to worry if people would not listen. Vss. 6, 10-12. The Word of the missionary is the Word of God. Vs. 16.
4. We do not know how long the seventy were gone. They returned about six months before Jesus' suffering and death.
5. The seventy returned with joy. But their joy was caused by the wrong reason. People who become Christians begin doing God's will. But their works for the Lord, even those which are according to His will, should not be the cause of their rejoicing. The Lord gave the seventy the authority to cast out demons. That was His will. But, in vs. 20, He plainly tells them that they should not rejoice over casting out demons.
6. Vs. 19 reads literally: "Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and even over all the power of the enemy (the devil), and therefore nothing shall injure you." Jesus is not saying that we should play around with snakes. He is saying that not even snakes and scorpions can harm us because Jesus has given us authority over the most terrible enemy, Satan himself. That should be the reason for our rejoicing. Like Job, I might lose my health, my wealth, my fame, my friends and even my wife but, like Job, I should rejoice and say: "I know that my Redeemer lives." My Redeemer conquered Satan and death. Heb. 2:14; II Tim. 1:10; Rev. 12:10; Jn. 12:31.
7. Vs. 18 of our text tells us that Jesus saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. He fell from the favor of God by his rebellion. It was like lightning, in the twinkling of an eye, sudden and total. And, at the same time, Jesus conquered Satan. When did that happen? Some think that Jesus is referring to Gen. 3:15, the first promise of the Gospel. Some think that Jesus refers to the individual casting out of evil spirits mentioned in our text. Some think he is referring to His suffering and death. It is all of these. Jesus' whole endeavor was to conquer Satan and death for us. Paul says: "Thanks be to God Who has given us the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ."
8. "Rejoice that your names have been inscribed in heaven." Because of His perfect life, suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus has given you the very best gift, eternal life with Him in heaven. I Jn. 5:12 says: "The one who has the Son has life." God and heaven are yours through Jesus Christ. That is what should make you happy just as it made Job happy even in his deepest grief. Job 19:25,26. The thought of going back to heaven is what made Jesus happy. Heb. 12:2. Paul could rejoice in the Lord even when he was in prison and chains. Php. 3:1.
9. To summarize: Rejoice in what the Lord in His mercy has done for you, not in what you do for Him. What you do for Him is His will and you must do it. But if you rejoice in that you might lead your self astray.
10. Jesus practices what He preached. In vs. 21 He rejoices over what God does for mankind by His mercy. If people are arrogant and impenitent God hides the Gospel from them. But if, like little children, they trust in Him alone He reveals Himself as a gracious and loving God. All of this the Father has entrusted to Jesus, vs. 22, Who is true God and true man.
11. N.T. Christians are very blessed. They have been privileged to see and hear things which many O.T. prophets and kings did not see and hear. I have privileges which David, Jehoshaphat, Isaiah and Jeremiah did not have. Vss. 23 and 24.

Theme: REJOICE IN THE LORD

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Introduction: Over and over the Epistle to the Philippians tells us to rejoice in the Lord at all times. See Ph. 2:18; 3:1; 4:4. Paul said this to the Philippians when he was in prison. Similarly when Paul and Silas were in prison in Philippi (Acts 16) they were singing praises to God in the night. When Peter and John returned to the Jerusalem Christians after being persecuted by the Sanhedrin, the congregation joined in praising God (Acts 4:24-30). From our text we see that Christians sometimes rejoice in the wrong thing. We must listen to our Lord.

I-WHY WE MUST REJOICE ONLY IN THE LORD

- A-Sinful man very easily makes himself his god. Read Mt. 7:21-23. On judgment day there will be people who say to the Lord: "Did we not teach in Your name? Did we not cast out devils in Your name? Did we not do many miracles in Your name?" But He will say to them: "I never knew you. Depart from Me you who work iniquity." We are astounded to read that. Why will Jesus reject them? They did not do the will of the heavenly Father. Jesus gave the seventy the authority to tread on Satan's power. And so they cast out devils in Jesus' name. When they returned to Jesus they rejoiced only in their ability to cast out demons. They were boasting only of what they could do and were not giving God the glory.
- B-Sinful man's deeds are tainted by sin. Paul confessed: "I know that in me, that is in my flesh, dwells no good thing." Rom. 7:18. The sinful flesh of man is constantly operative. Paul says also at Rom. 7:21: "I find then the principle that, for me who wants to do the good, evil is present with me." Even our best deeds are tainted by sin. Rather than rejoice we should always be asking for God's forgiveness.
- C-Doing God's will is our duty, not for our boasting. Read Lk. 17:7-10. There Jesus makes this point: "Likewise also you must say 'We are unprofitable servants. We have only done what it was our duty to do.'" With reference to Gal. 5:1 Luther said: "The Gospel gives me freedom only in my conscience. From there on it's all obligation." I am obligated to love God with heart, soul and mind. I am obligated to love my neighbor as myself. That's not rejoicing.

II-WHAT TRUE REJOICING IS

- A-It is based only on what God has done for me. Jesus sums up all that God has done for all men thus: "I saw Satan like lightning fall from heaven." Jesus is saying that He is victor over Satan. His victory over Satan at the same time is victory over sin and death. Adam's fall brought sin, death and slavery to Satan upon all men. All people have sinned. Therefore all people die. Therefore all people are lost. Read Heb. 2:14; II Tim. 1:10; I Cor. 15:55; Rev. 12:10; Jn. 12:31. When Christ was crucified, the ruler of this world, Satan, was thrown out. Jesus says that this gives us authority over all the power of Satan, our enemy. Therefore, nothing will harm you. This does not mean immunity from suffering but rather deliverance from it. Like Job, we suffer much from Satan, but Jesus will deliver us from every evil work. II Tim. 4:18.
- B-Your names are written in heaven. Is. 43:1 reads "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine." At 45:4 God says: "I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me." Jesus says at Jn. 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow Me and I give to them eternal life and they will never perish and no one will take them out of my hand." Paul said at Gal. 6:14 "God forbid that I boast in anything except the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ." In heaven we will sing only about what Jesus did for us, not what we did for Him. Rev. 7:12.

1. The parallels are found at Mk. 1:12-13 and Lk. 4:1-13. See Heb. 4:15.
2. We are reminded of Gen. 3: First Satan says: "Did God really say that He causes doubt. Then a false promise: "You will not die." And then another false promise: "You'll be like God." But after Adam and Eve fell, God announced utter defeat for Satan, Gen. 3:15. See Hebr. 2:14,18; 4:15; 5:8. The God-man, Jesus, was tempted, suffered, died, conquered Satan in our stead. See also Lk. 10:18-19.
3. Jesus had just been anointed with the Holy Spirit for His Messianic work, Mt. 3:13-17. Jesus was willing (Heb. 10:9-10) but the Holy Spirit led Jesus to be tempted by the devil. He had fulfilled all righteousness in His baptism (Mt. 3:15). Satan wanted to destroy this.
4. Satan hates the Word of God. He snatches the Word from us so that we cannot believe and be saved. Lk. 8:12. Jesus conquers Satan ONLY with the Word of God. Read Eph. 6:10-17.
5. Luther said that in the first temptation Satan showed himself as the black devil, in the second as the white devil, but in the third as a divine majestic devil who acts as if he were God Himself. That is true. As he proceeds Satan acts more and more like God. He changes himself into an angel of light. II Cor. 11:14.
6. In the first temptation Satan tempted Jesus to doubt His Messiahship. He tempts Him to deny that He is true God, but Jesus gives an answer which pertains to His humanity. He quotes Deut. 8:3. All gifts of God, both physical and spiritual, come only through God's Word. That is true even for those who don't believe in Jesus. Jesus once said: "Without Me you can do nothing." Jn. 15:5. That is true of body and soul. If Jesus had done Satan's will He would have denied His Messiahship.
7. In the second temptation Satan tempted Jesus to false trust. Jesus had just quoted the Bible in vs. 4. Satan now tries to outdo Jesus by quoting the Bible too but he sets the Bible against itself. It is true that God promises to take care of us. But he warns us not to be reckless. Satan omitted the words "in all your ways." Satan misuses the Bible to destroy man. That's what Luther meant when he said that now Satan comes as the white devil, the angel of light. But Jesus disposes of Satan's tricks by quoting Deut. 6:16. Jesus does not reason or debate with Satan. Satan is incorrigible. He cannot be saved. You cannot convert him. Do as Joseph did (Gen. 39:12) He did not argue with Satan. He fled. James 4:7 says: "Resist the devil and he will flee." I Pet. 5:9 says: "Resist him steadfast in the faith." If you give the devil your little finger he will tear your arm off.
8. In the third temptation, as Luther says, Satan appears like God Himself. This time he really changes himself into an angel of light. He has great power. Lk. 10:19. He causes great suffering and death. He makes evil appear as a blessing. God wants to be worshipped after He has helped us. Ps. 50:15. Satan wants to be worshipped before he gives his false gift. Furthermore, "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Ps. 24:1. But when man fell into sin Satan became "the god of this world." II Cor. 4:4. Jesus called him "the ruler of this world" Jn. 12:31. That is why Satan so arrogantly promised Jesus in vs. 9 of our text. He wanted Jesus to put His trust in Satan rather than in His heavenly Father. Jesus quotes Deut. 6:13.
9. Jesus, the God-man, was sinless and did not deserve to be tempted and to die. He could not fall into sin but He was truly and really tempted. Why? Because He was our Substitute. He conquered Satan by dying. Heb. 2:14-15. He conquered sin by paying for it. I Jn. 2:2. And He conquered temptation by being tempted. Heb. 4:15. Therefore let us boldly approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace in the time of need. Hebr. 4:16.
10. On angels ministering to Jesus compare Hebr. 1:14.

Sermon Outline on Mt. 4:1-11, Lent I

Theme: JESUS' TEMPTATIONS AND MY TEMPTATIONS

Introduction: Jesus has conquered Satan and all forces of hell. Read Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; Lk. 10:18; I Jn. 3:8. Furthermore, Jesus, the God-man, was subjected to all the temptations which come to us. Heb. 2:18; 4:15; 5:8. God will not allow His children to be tempted beyond what they can endure. I Cor. 10:13. Jesus is our model. He shows us how to deal with temptation.

I-THE TEMPTATION TO DOUBT

- A- Adam and Eve. Satan said to Eve: "Did God really say that you should not eat of every tree of the garden?" Gen. 3:1. That was the beginning of the fall of man into sin. Satan caused Adam and Eve to doubt what God had said.
- B- Jesus in the wilderness. At His baptism God said of Jesus: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Mt. 3:17. Then the Spirit led Jesus to be tempted. Satan said to Jesus: "If you are really God's Son. . ." Satan caused Adam and Eve to doubt so that they would do his will. He tried the same with Jesus.
- C- You and I. We are tempted to doubt in many ways. For example: "Does God really forgive your sins? Does He really love you when He afflicts you? Does God really forbid sex before marriage?" Satan tempts us to doubt so that we will do his will. In such cases we must do as Jesus did. Quote the Word of God. Jesus told Satan that God would sustain Jesus by His Word. God wants man to live by His Word, not by bread.

II-THE TEMPTATION TO MISUSE THE PROMISES OF GOD

- A- Adam and Eve. God promised Adam and Eve well-being if they would restrict themselves to allowed trees. Gen. 2:16. God warned them of the restriction in vs. 17. Satan caused Adam and Eve to be dissatisfied with God's will. Satan caused them to do his will.
- B- Jesus in the wilderness. Satan quotes a promise of God from Ps. 91:1 but he omits the words "in all your ways" which means "in all your faithful ways." Sinful ways are not the ways of God's children. But that would be contrary to tempting God. That's why Jesus quoted Deut. 6:16 "You will not tempt the Lord your God." Jesus would have sinned if he had done the will of Satan. Satan tried to set the Word of God against itself.
- C- You and I. We are easily tempted to misuse the promises of God. I Cor. 6:12 reads: "All things are allowed to me but all things are not profitable for me." In things neither commanded nor forbidden God gives us freedom to do as we please unless it is offensive to someone else. In that case we should not do it. We should not misuse this promise of God. Read also I Cor. 10:23-33.

III-THE TEMPTATION TO BELIEVE IN A FALSE PROMISE

- A- Adam and Eve. Satan promised Adam and Eve that, if they would do his will, they would be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil. Gen. 3:5. When they obeyed Satan they did learn to know what evil was but they lost all knowledge of the good. When they did as Satan suggested they were ashamed of their nakedness and tried to hide from God.
- B- Jesus in the wilderness. Satan approached Jesus in the false majesty of God. If Jesus would worship him he would give Jesus the kingdoms of the world; Satan was an impostor, a usurper. He is the god of this world. II Cor. 4:4. Jesus called him the "ruler of this world." Jn. 12:31. But that is true only so long as sin and death are masters. Once sin and death were conquered, Satan was no longer god and ruler.
- C- You and I. We are so easily trapped by the passing pleasures of sin. Heb. 11:25. David was trapped by his lust for Bathsheba. The sin looked so innocent and pleasing. Satan says: "If you'll worship me I'll give you a good time." Beware! It is a trap.

Conclusion: Jesus can sympathize with us. He was tempted in all things just as we are. Trust Him. Learn His Word. Use it.