

What do we Go With? LK 10:1-24

Arklow 2nd February 2020

I can't seem to get away from the phrase 'listen and go' and I sense it's something that God wants to lead and stretch us in this year. I don't yet know what that's going to look like, but I do believe it's going to mean developing confidence in both hearing God and stepping out in obedience to bless the people around us (including one another). And, maybe it's just me, but it feels like it might be a bit nerve-wracking, too...or perhaps exciting.

Last week I spoke about the 'man of peace,' the person who shows an openness to get to know you and/or Jesus, who asks questions or perhaps who opens up themselves. I thought it was a good theory, but it was wonderful to have someone come to me and ask about meeting up and for me to get to know them a bit better. That doesn't happen to me very often, so I could definitely get a whiff of God off it. I'm looking forward to where that goes.

For the rest of this month we're going to look at examples of people in Scripture that heard God and responded, and what we can learn from them. [Appeal for personal testimonies to include in these.] But my talk today is a bit of a foundation-builder for this whole theme of listen and go. I think it's a case of setting down some principles that we'll explore in different ways as time goes on, so there might not be clear action points out of today, but hopefully some strengthening and structure that will help us through the exciting moments.

We're going to read a good section of Luke 10 and I'll go through it to see what we can take from it for how Jesus wants us to 'go' in his name. There are quite a few common elements with the instructions he gave the 12 in the previous chapter and in MT 10.

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. ² 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. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ '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.' ¹² I 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 miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

¹⁸ He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

²¹ 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.

²² *"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."*

²³ *Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ 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."*

What do we go with?

1. Companions (v1). Jesus sent them out in twos (even to collect a pony). It's always a case of 'on mission together.' I think this is something we might have found challenging because we're geographically spread out and there often isn't a lot of overlap between people outside of organised church activities, but in terms of relationship, prayer support, encouragement and so on, this is something we can definitely do for one another, and to feel that we are working together to see Jesus glorified in this area. We are not sent out alone, even if it feels like we're the only person in our college, our workplace, our family or wherever that is lifting up Jesus' name. We are here for one another, and *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. EP 5:21 (NLT)*

2. An expectation that Jesus is coming (v1). These disciples were preparing the way for Jesus to physically visit a town or village with his message of the kingdom, and they knew he was on his way. Two thousand years on, our mission is fundamentally the same, but it's maybe more of a faith step to expect Him to come where we step out. We don't have Jesus physically here with a planned preaching tour. That's where the 'listen and go' comes in. Where are we seeing green lights in terms of people to spend time with, places to go, things to get involved in? And when we do, are we expecting Jesus to show up in some way? We should, because we carry His presence with us.

3. Vulnerability (v3) Jesus is shameless about seemingly sending his follower out into danger. This is where the nerve-wracking/exciting part comes in! Whether he was saying this from his perspective, or reflecting how the disciples might be feeling, he is acknowledging that it's a scary and risk-taking enterprise to go and proclaim the kingdom of God. That's why we need to know that He has sent us and that He is with us, that He has all authority and has promised to always be with us as we go.

4. No natural, controllable resources (v4, 9:3) This is challenging to the planners among us, and there's nothing wrong with preparing (Jesus does talk about this elsewhere), but there has to be a foundation of faith that it's God who will provide what we need as we go. Perhaps those who've had to live on their wits will be more OK with this, but again it's about trusting Him, not our own resourcefulness, whether what we need is courage, faith, finances, equipment, opportunities to pray with people, spiritual gifts or whatever. Because what is spiritually valuable is spiritually resourced. I think the only way we're going to grow in this is in prayer and in taking faith steps.

5. A clear purpose (1b, 4b). This trip was an 'assignment' to prepare the ground where Jesus was about to travel, so they were told to stay 'on task' and not get distracted by anything else along the way. Some have speculated that they were travelling through familiar territory, so they were likely to meet people they knew. Maybe, maybe not. Sometimes interruptions are totally God-filled, but in this case the instruction was to keep focused. That's why we need to 'listen and go' and know what our assignment is at any given time. [G&F very hot on this – LINAP trip]

6. Blessing and peace (vv5-6) [Talked about this last week] The message and the aim of the gospel is to always to bring blessing and peace to people, never condemnation, judgement or criticism. This is what the kingdom is about, what Jesus has won for us. Yes, there are obstacles to receiving that, and sometimes God coming near to someone can be challenging before it's comforting, but we want to start and end with this message, just as Jesus did. He is good news.

7. Willingness to receive, too (vv7-8, 9:3-4) It's not all about 'we've got what you need' – it's about our vulnerability also meaning we are prepared to receive kindness, insight and wisdom from the people we are going to. I once heard a mission leader saying that our vulnerability is one of our greatest assets. Paul found that in Galatia, where he arrived suffering from an illness and their care for him built a relationship (**GA 4:12-15**). It's about bringing people into the kingdom with all the uniqueness they have to bring as well.

8. The message and demonstration of the kingdom (v9, 9:2) The kingdom of God is a breakthrough kingdom; the rule of Jesus is different from the rule of sin and Satan, and it makes a difference when His reign is exercised. This was the commission of the disciples, and I don't see anywhere that it's been revoked. Jesus tells us to declare that the kingdom has come and to show the world the kingdom in action. That's challenging, and exciting, and our prayer is: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

9. Strength to stay or walk away (vv10-12,16; 9:5) This is maybe a bit uncomfortable, but Jesus is clear in saying that if there isn't an open door, ear or heart, don't keep hammering on it. Move on to where there is. This is challenging to a 'local church' who have the same doors, ears and hearts in front of them all the time, but openness is something that changes and we need to be alert to that. Also not to take it personally but realise it's a reaction to Jesus himself, and that we are caught up in that as we are united with Him. So if we're rejected, we can take it to Him. And if we're celebrated, we can do the same!

10. Authority over evil spirits (vv17-19, 9:1) It's clear that Jesus' commission includes the breaking of spiritual oppression over people's lives, setting them free to know and enjoy him. This is an awesome truth and needs to come with revelation gifts (words, discernment) in order to be put into practice effectively.

11. Joy in who we are and what God is giving us (vv20-21) This is what Jesus brings the disciples back to after their 'mission trip'. It's all about knowing that we're His children and that he has good things for us now and for eternity, the things that the gospel revealed to them and therefore to us through them. Keep rejoicing, keep thanking, keep celebrating.



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5 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 '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.' 12 I 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 miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. 16 "Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me."

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

21 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.

22 "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."

23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 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."

Luke 9:1-24 (NIV)

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| 1. _____ | 7. Willingness to _____ |
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kingdom |
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| 4. No natural, controllable
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_____ |
| 5. A clear _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ and
_____ | |

Good News and Prayer

Key to Bible translations

NIV New International Version, **NLT** New Living Translation, **GNT** Good News Translation

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