

November 6

Luke 10, 11, 17

Matthew 11

John 10

The passage in Luke underscores the kind of effort that Christ was now pouring into leadership training. The preaching tour of the 72 is a great success and many wonderful things are accomplished in the name of Jesus. There are two things about the record of the preaching tour that I want to call to your attention. The first relates to Jesus' remark about having seen Satan fall. The preachers report that even demons submit to the name of Jesus. There are two possible ways to understand that paragraph. One was, as a result of the victories that the 72 were having in Jesus' name, Christ saw in His spirit the dominion of Satan crumbling as suddenly and dramatically as a flash of lightning crosses the evening sky.

The other way of interpreting Jesus remarks is just as reasonable. The preachers come back full of excitement and say, "Look what happened." Jesus, seeing that little bit of "look what we did" pride, says, "I remember a day -- long before the world was made -- when Satan, all full of pride, fell like lightning from heaven. Yes it's true; you did wonderful things because I have given you my own authority! BUT don't get too impressed with all of that. If you want to rejoice, if you want to be proud, rejoice and have pride in this -- that your names are recorded in heaven."

Jesus didn't just give His authority to the twelve and then to those 72. He has given it - at the Great Commission and through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit - to all His servants - to you and to me! When we begin to obey the Word in our lives, that

power will begin to show itself in wonderful ways. But just remember, when and if God chooses to use you in a special way, don't be too impressed with yourself, or with anything He uses you to do. Be impressed by the grace that caused Him to write your name in the Lambs Book of Life.

The second thing I want you to see is just how enormous the Holy Spirit is in giving joy and pleasure to Jesus. Jesus got great joy out of seeing His disciples succeed and grow. Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, but He also was a man who bubbled over with the wonderful joy that the Holy Spirit of God gives those who are full of Him.

The 'Parable of the Good Samaritan' is here for us. Remember what we said about interpreting parables? We're supposed to look for the setting, the story

and the application and we want to find the one main point that the story makes. The setting is here: an expert in the law - a scribe - wanted to know what He had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to keep the law. He summarized the Old Testament law admirably in two overarching commandments. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind"* and *"love your neighbor as yourself."* No one has even been able to keep those two commandments perfectly. That's why the New Testament says that by the keeping of the law no one is ever justified, but the scribe wasn't ready to admit guilt, so he tries to fudge on the second commandment by asking, *"Who is my neighbor?"* You need to know that Samaritans and Jews absolutely hated each other.

The application of the parable is also here. Everyone is my neighbor, especially the one who needs help.

In Luke 11, we read about Jesus' teaching on the subject of prayer. The very first thing you need to see is that this seminar on prayer was initiated by a request on the part of the disciples. "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." and they got a heavy dose of Jesus' teaching on the subject of prayer.

The very best way to transfer any belief, principle or discipline from one person to another, is to model it ... to live it so consistently and transparently, that the disciple sees it working so well in your life that he wants it for his own, and learns it for himself.

The second thing we need to quickly note is that while Jesus continually 'modeled'

effective fervent prayer for them, He made no systematic attempt to teach them about it until they asked for it.

A few quick comments on the Lord 's Prayer are certainly in order:

1. We are to call God "Father."
2. Secondly, note that God's glory always comes first.
3. The prayer covers all of life -- our past sins; our present needs, and our future trials.

Jesus' teaching about persistence in prayer is of enormous significance to every single one of us! We may be all too quick to surrender our belief that God is going to respond to our prayers. If we don't get the answer we are seeking in a short period of time, it is awfully easy to just stop praying. Jesus says, "Don't."