

“Love Warns”

(Luke 10:1-16)

Dr. Richard S. Koole
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I. Introduction

A. Quite a week!

1. Earthquake and tsunami
2. The Middle East
3. The rallies over the economy
4. Daylight saving....tired

B. How's your attitude this morning?

1. “You don't know what I've been through”
2. On the wall at service garage.... “Attitude” by Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude.

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you. We are in charge of our attitudes.

C. The importance of attitude

1. It's your attitude...not your achievements...that will give you happiness (Maxwell)
2. Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out. (John Wooden)
3. I've done lots of hiring
 - a. Attitude over experience

D. Let's see the attitudes Jesus was looking for

II. Text...Luke 10

A. The Simple Plan (v. 1)

(1) After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two-by-two ahead of him to every town and place he was about to go.

1. *"After this"*
 - a. The ministry in Galilee
 - b. Eight months until his crucifixion
 - c. Headed down to Jerusalem
2. *"the Lord appointed"*
 - a. Selected from those following him
 - b. The first missionaries
 - c. A very simple plan
3. *"appointed the seventy-two"*
 - a. Some translations say 70
 1. Most likely "70"
 2. The 70 on the Sanhedrin
 - a. The supreme council of the Jews
 3. The 70 elders chosen to help Moses

a. Leading the people in the wilderness (Num. 1)

b. I'll refer to them as "the 70"

4. ***"and sent them two-by-two"***

a. Why two-by-two

b. Deuteronomy 19:15

1. From the mouth of two witnesses

c. Just like the sending of the twelve

5. ***"ahead of him to every town and place he was about to go"***

a. Advance missionaries

b. To the towns he would later visit

6. What kind of attitude did they have?

a. What would determine their success or failure?

b. What determines the success or failure of missionaries today?

1. As we send three new missionaries this year

c. Next week...the 70 return

1. "What really matters in life"

7. The importance of motivation in missionaries

It's not about training, it's about motivation. It's not about what you know. It's about what you feel. It's about what drives you.

B. The Special Team (vs. 2-4)

...What type of person was Jesus looking for?

1. People with compassion (v. 2)

(2) He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

a. Often confused with the good harvest

- b. This is the harvest of “wrath”
 - 1. Same phrase used for the sending of the 12
- c. Jesus knew the harvest would be horrible
 - 1. Matthew 9:36
 - a. Seeing the multitudes, he was moved with compassion
- d. “The Harvest” is associated with wrath
 - 1. Joel 3:12-14

(12) Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. (13) Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes for the winepress is full and the vats overflow: so great is their wickedness! (14) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near.

- 2. Matthew 13:30-39, Jesus said...

(39) The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are the angels.”

- 3. Revelation 14:14-19
 - a. The angel with the sickle
 - b. God’s harvest of the unjust

(19) The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath.

- 4. The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on.

- e. And Jesus would be “the Lord of the Harvest”
 - 1. II Thessalonians 1:6-8

(6) God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you (7) and give relief to you who are trouble, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. (8) He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

f. Compassion seeks to deliver people from the wrath of God

1. Love Warns

2. The Battle Hymn of the Republic

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me: As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on.

g. Serving out of compassion rather than duty

2. People who are teachable (v. 2)

(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.

a. Willing to ask for help and direction

b. God told us to pray

1. Failure to do so is disobedience

c. We are to ask (pray) that God will raise up deliverers

1. As a church....3 new couples this year

d. Your role in the harvest field....pray that people will respond

e. “Pray to me and ask me to send messengers to preach a gospel so sinners can be delivered from me”

f. Are you praying that God will send workers to rescue the lost?

3. People in a hurry (v. 3)

(3) Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

a. “Go now!”

b. World events

4. People with courage (v. 3)

(3) Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

a. Defenseless lambs among wolves

1. They would suffer
2. Christians in the Middle East today
 - a. Getting worse
 - b. Are you willing to go in haste and against tough odds?

5. People willing to trust God (v. 4)

(4) Do not take a purse or bag or sandals;

- a. Don't take
 1. "purse"
 - a. Used to carry their money
 2. "bag"
 - a. Like a carry on bag
 3. "sandals"
 - a. Extra footwear
- b. Trust me to provide
 1. Trust only grows during adversity
 2. When only God can supply...and he does
- c. Dr. Johnson, the brilliant 18th century man of letters, after viewing a magnificent castle remarked grimly, "These are the things which make it difficult to die."
- d. The preacher is not to be cluttered up with material things, but must travel light.
 1. The value of the "parsonage"
 2. Selling house in Ada
 - a. Every time we've moved
- e. Are you willing to sacrifice your comfort to follow God?

6. People fully focused on the task (v.4)

(4) ... and do not greet anyone on the road.

- a. “greet” was more than a cordial “hello”
 - 1. Meant to sit down for a meal and overnight stay
 - 2. Develop a new friendship
- b. Don’t get distracted
 - 1. Even by good things
- c. Those who serve God must not turn aside or linger on the lesser things while the great things call them.
- d. What are the lesser things that distract you from the greater things?

C. My Criteria for hiring....P-A-T-H

- 1. Proven
- 2. Available ...Attitude
- 3. Teachable
- 4. Heart for God and People
 - a. Preparing yourself to serve

D. The Spiritual Kingdom (vs. 5-11)

- 1. This section is summarized in verse 9

(9) Heal the sick who are there and tell them, “The kingdom of God is near you.”

- a. The spiritual kingdom is here because Jesus is here
- 2. What is life like in a kingdom?
- 3. Consider The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 - a. A kingdom is a realm ruled by an absolute monarch
 - 1. King Abdullah
 - 2. The House of Saud

- b. With absolute authority
 - 1. It's not a democracy
 - 2. The will of the people has no role
- c. The duty of the people is to submit and obey
 - 1. Do whatever the king says to do

4. If you choose to enter that kingdom:

- a. You leave your own will at the door

5. Advantages of a kingdom with a perfect king

The greatest form of government, the purest form of government, the best form of government is a monarchy with a perfect king who is always just, who's perfectly benevolent, wise and powerful

6. I'm currently living in such a kingdom

- a. Colossians 1:13

“For God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the son he loves.

- b. Jesus came to rescue you from the evil kingdom

7. How to join his kingdom

- a. The need to confess Christ as “Lord” (Romans 10:9-10)

(9) That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

8. There would be two responses to their preaching

- a. **Some would welcome them (Luke 10:5-9)**

(5) “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ (6) If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. (7) Stay in that house, 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 set before you. (9) Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'

1. Offer them peace with God (Romans 5:1)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

b. But, some would refuse to welcome them (Luke 10:10-11)

(10) But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, (11) 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.' (12) I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

1. Those who reject Christ
2. The importance of warning
3. Standing in the middle of the main street
4. The consequence of their rejection
5. Our need to warn the rejecters

E. The Severe Judgment (vs. 12-16)

(12) I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

(13) Woe to you, Korazin! 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 up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. (16) He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

1. The more of God's truth you know, the more severe will be your eternal judgment

- a. The cities considered the "bad guys"

1. Sodom

- a. Genesis 18:20

(20) Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous.

2. Tyre and Sidon

- a. Gentile cities
 - b. On the coast of Lebanon
 - c. God condemns them in Ezekiel 28
 - d. Called the king “the spawn of Satan”
- b. The so called “good guys”
- 1. Bethsaida
 - a. Home of Peter and Andrew
 - b. Place of so many great miracles
 - 2. Capernaum
 - a. Jesus’ home base
 - b. Heard and saw more than any other city
 - 3. Korazin
 - a. No longer exists
 - b. Was very close to Capernaum, which was the headquarters of Jesus during his Galilean ministry where Jesus preached
 - c. Stated that many miracles were performed there
 - 1. Yet not a single one is mentioned
 - 2. Bible only records a fraction of his miracles
- c. Missionaries to Sweden
- 1. Why?
- d. “*on that day*” (v. 12)
- 1. The Day of Judgment
 - 2. The Great White Throne of Judgment (Rev. 20:11)
- e. Lesser punishment for Sodom, Tyre and Sidon

2. *Being in this church and hearing the gospel is high-risk behavior*

- a. To have heard the truth about Jesus carries a great responsibility
 - 1. God will ask for an accounting
- b. There will be differing degrees of punishment
- c. The more you have been exposed to what Jesus did for you, the greater you'll be punished for rejecting him
- d. For those with few specifics regarding God...
 - 1. They'll be judged according to what they have had the opportunity to hear and know
 - 2. How we treat children
- e. Is God fair?
 - 1. Revelation 20:12-13

(12) ...The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (13) The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

- 2. None will accuse God of being unfair
- f. It is a terrible thing to reject God's invitation
 - 1. Every promise of God that you have ever heard could become your condemnation
 - 2. If we receive these promises...they are our greatest glory
 - 3. But each promise that we have rejected will some day be a witness against us

3. *We live in Korazin, Capernaum and Bethsaida*

- a. Our heritage
 - 1. Returning from California
 - 2. Cultural Christianity
- b. There really are very few "unchurched"

c. This is indeed a special calling

1. To reach across denominational lines
2. To share the un-slanted truth of God's Word

III. Summary

A. Are you a “Cultural Christian?”

1. Kids are told they're Christians
2. Never know when death will surprise you

B. Love Warns

1. Love rescues
 - a. Luke 10:2

(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.

2. What role will you play?

C. The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword: His truth is marching on.

- Looking toward Easter
- Fat Tuesday and Paczkis
- The 40 days of Lent
- The glorious resurrection

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me: As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on.