

## **The Seventy-Two**

Luke 10:1-24

by Don Falkos

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Jesus appointed seventy-two of his followers and sent them out two by two into all the towns and villages he intended to visit on his way to Jerusalem. He told them, "There's a great harvest, but only a few are working in it. Pray the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers. I'm sending you like lambs into a pack of wolves. Don't take anything with you, and don't be distracted along the way. Stick to your purpose.

"As a worker you earn your keep. But don't move from one house to another looking for the best cook in town. Stay in one home and eat whatever they give you."

"When you enter a town and are welcomed, heal anyone who's sick and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is right on your doorstep.' But if you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into the street and say, 'We shake the dust of your town off our feet as a protest against you. But know this – the Kingdom of God has arrived!'

"Whoever listens to you is listening to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the One who sent me!"

When the seventy-two came back, they were very excited and said, "Lord, even evil spirits obey us when we use your name!"

Jesus replied, "Your power over evil spirits is nothing compared with God's mercy on you. Your joy should come from knowing your names are written in heaven. Many prophets and kings have wanted to see what you are seeing but they never saw it, and to hear what you are hearing but they never heard it."