

Title: WHAT THE DISCIPLES SEE, LUKE 10:17-24.
(Chatham, NJ; 07/04/10, AM) [Pc – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: In reading about the experience of the disciples on their missionary travels, more is revealed to us about the nature of God and of his salvation plan.

Purpose: To explore the experience of the disciples and to describe the kind of people who are able to see and believe the revelation of God through Jesus.

Introduction:

1. Luke records something that no one else does, the sending out of seventy-two workers.
2. Last week we noted that he had sent out the twelve; they learned a few things along with the experience.
3. In chapter 10 the learning continues not just for them but for all who see the Kingdom of God unfold.
4. What does this reveal to the disciples and to us?

I. God Reveals Himself to “Little Children.”

A. Little children.

1. Not to the wise and understanding.
2. Children in the metaphorical sense of being unsophisticated and not wise to the ways of the world.
3. Children in that they are still able to believe.
4. They are not cynical and closed-minded toward spiritual things.
5. What did they look like? Not superbly dressed; maybe not groomed properly; they may have been something akin to today’s “red-necks.”
6. Can we imagine Jesus revealing himself to such people? Can we imagine him wanting to keep company with them?

B. Sinners, Mt. 9:9-11.

1. Jesus eats with a tax collector, Matthew.
2. He even becomes an Apostle.
3. The company he has kept his entire life have been of a particular class.
4. The “righteous” have by their very lifestyle excluded them.
5. Yet they were the ones receptive to the message, Mt. 21:31.

C. Servants, John 2:9.

1. Jesus changes water to wine.
2. The servants get to see the first time Christ reveals his power.
3. Jesus rejoices that this is the way of God, Luke 10:21.

II. Jesus was granted all things by his Father.

A. No one knows the Son except the Father.

1. The intimacy that the Father has with the Son transcends human knowledge.
2. They are eternally bound in the Godhead.

B. No one knows the Father except the Son.

1. Although repetitious, Jesus asserts the divine connection as something that no one else has.

2. This is tantamount to saying, “No one comes to the Father except through me,” John 14:6.
3. As the disciples begin to see more and more of the miracles, Jesus reveals this crucial detail about himself.

C. Anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

1. Those who are privy to such intimate knowledge happen to be those who are not the worldly wise but the babes, sinners, and servants of the world, in other words, the humble and lowly in spirit.
2. He makes a similar connection in verse 16.
3. God was in the world, at work in the life of Christ, in fact, in Jesus the fullness of God lived in bodily form, Col. 2:9.
4. This is why Jesus was granted all things by his Father.

III. What the disciples see. (“Blessed are your eyes,” 23)

A. This is a great privilege for them, 23 – 24.

1. Mysteries are being revealed before their very eyes.
2. The salvation of God is unfolding in front of them.
3. The war between God and Satan is being carried out and won, 18-19.
4. They are witnesses to God’s victory in a cosmic conflict, one in which we are intimately involved.

B. They witness God’s power and authority over all things.

1. The demons were subject to them, 17.
2. They have the power to heal and forgive.
3. They have preached the coming of the Kingdom.
4. They are seeing the fulfillment of Israel’s greatest desires.

C. Jesus calls them to see something else:

1. They should not let it go to their heads, 19-20.
2. Their joy should be simply that their names are recorded in heaven.
3. The power is not theirs but the privilege of union with God is.

Conclusion:

1. Such is enough for any one of us.
2. In our Christian walk we must realize what an honor it is to be counted as those who will be joined with our God and Father.
3. This should both humble us and give us joy.
4. Let us be the “little children.”
5. For all who perceive God in the life and work of Christ, we invite you to join us in the community of believers.