



## ***St. Paul Evangelical Community Church (SPECC)***

**Worship Address :** Cerritos High School Auditorium  
12500 E. 183<sup>rd</sup> St., Cerritos, CA 90703  
(Enter at Bloomfield, across Heritage Park)

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September 20, 2009

### **Theme: We Represent Jesus in Our World**

#### **Text: Luke 10**

For the past few weeks we have been asking the question: "What would Jesus do?" Last week we saw that Jesus would make a huge difference in the lives of people who were open to receiving Him. This implies that Jesus wants us to have an impact upon the lives of the people around us. There are many ways that we could discern whether or not we are doing what Jesus would do. We can do this by asking at least two questions: (1) Are we spending regular time in Jesus' presence? (2) Are we making sacrificial choices in His Name? Making a decision to represent Jesus in the world is at least one sacrificial choice that we can make in this world.

Today we are going to see that Jesus did in fact expect his disciples to do what he was doing. He sent 72 disciples to preach and teach in the cities where he was going to pass through. They were sent to represent Him among the people of Israel. So when we ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" we are not living in the realm of idealism or theory. We are living in the world of reality where Jesus commands us to represent Him in the world. Do you feel inadequate to represent Jesus in your world? I'm sure we all have at one time. Luke 10 tells us about the resources that Christ has gives to those whom He sends out. These spiritual resources empower us to do what He expects us to do.

First, we are commissioned by Christ Himself to represent Him in our world. Jesus has made the decision that we should represent Him. In John's Gospel, Jesus says it like this: "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." We cannot commission ourselves. Jesus is the one who has chosen us and who sends us. We represent Him under His authority. Some years ago, a man carrying a crown and a folding chair sat on the steps of the capitol and crowned himself king of the USA. No one paid attention to Him except those who were curious. He had no authority to do what he did. We do have authority to represent Jesus in the world. We have the authority of Jesus Himself.

A second resource that we have is God's protection. Jesus said that he was sending his disciples out as lambs among wolves. This is a powerful picture. Sheep must be one of the most defenseless mammals on earth. This saying does not seem to promise protection—but it does. Lambs have no defense against wolves. Their only hope is to remain close to the shepherd. The shepherds of ancient Israel were ready to sacrifice their lives in order to protect their sheep from predators. Jesus referred to himself as the Good Shepherd when He said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Many Christians around the world risk physical harm and even death for sharing their faith with others. Jesus says that we need not fear death because he has conquered death by rising from the dead.



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A third resource is that we have Jesus instructions. In verses 4-11 Jesus gives his disciples specific instructions concerning what they must do when they go out. Because our culture is very different from the Jewish culture in the first century, His instructions do not apply in quite the same way today as they did then. But there is one way that his instructions do apply. Jesus said to look for a "man of peace." In other words, they were to look for people whom God was already touching and spend their time with them. As we represent Jesus, people will have varying levels of openness to the message. Jesus instructed His disciple to focus most of their time upon those who were receptive to the message.

Verses 9 and 19 tell us about a fourth resource that Christ gives to His disciples. He gives them His own authority and power. He gave his disciples power to heal and authority over Satanic forces. The ability to heal is not the same today as it was during Jesus ministry. God still heals miraculously; but he doesn't heal everyone. However, we do still have authority over Satanic forces. Paul wrote that our struggle is not with flesh and blood, but with the forces of darkness. We can expect that if we actively strive to be Jesus' representatives in this world, we will come under attack from the evil one. However, we need not fear him because Jesus has given us authority over him.

Finally, Jesus gives us security. The 72 disciples returned from their mission with great joy because they had discovered that evil spirits were obedient to them. Even as they rejoice over this, Jesus speaks these words, "...do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Imagine what an honor it would be to have your name written in an encyclopedia or even the LA Times because of something you did. Jesus promises that our names will be written in a much greater book—the Lamb's book of life. No matter what we face in the world, we can be sure that our names are written in that book. In other words we can be sure that we are destined for heaven. This is the ultimate security.