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~ Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20 ~

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After this the Lord appointed seventy-two[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 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. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’”

“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.” The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

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Sent in Grace

In Luke 10, Jesus sends seventy-two followers—not spiritual elites, but everyday people—out into a world in need of healing, peace, and hope. He sends them with little more than each other, His word, and a blessing: “Peace to this house.”

This is not a story of triumphalism or heroism. It's a story of humble, vulnerable vocation. Jesus sends them as lambs among wolves—not to conquer, but to bear witness.

We truly believe that our vocation—as baptized children of God—is lived not in the spotlight but in the everyday: in homes, in hospitality, in conversations marked by compassion. We are called to speak peace and to proclaim that “the kingdom of God has come near.”

When the seventy-two are welcomed, they share life, eat what is offered, heal the sick, and declare God's nearness. And when they're not welcomed? Jesus doesn't say “argue with them” or “defend God because he needs defending.” Instead, he says, “shake the dust from your feet.” In other words, don't carry rejection like a burden. They are not rejecting you so do not take it personally. The end result of our work is sometimes not seen by us. There are people who at that moment rejected God's word but later in a time of need will remember what they heard.

God's work is not limited to our success or reception. God's presence and power are often hidden, unfolding quietly in ordinary, even resistant, places.

When the seventy-two return with joy—rejoicing that even demons submit—Jesus grounds them: He tells them not rejoice that the spirits submit to them but instead to rejoice that their names are known to God. In other words, your identity is not in your results. Your identity is in God's grace.

That's the heart of the gospel: not what we accomplish for God, but what God has done—and continues to do—in us and through us, by grace.

Some reflection questions to consider:

- Where is God sending you in your everyday life?
- How can you be a bearer of peace in this imperfect, divided and anxious world?
- What helps you trust that God is at work—even in the places that don't receive you?

So, siblings in Christ, as you go—into conversations, communities, and ordinary moments—remember this: you are sent, not to fix the world, but to witness to the One who already has.

You go not in your own strength, but in the peace and promise of Christ.

And whether you're received or rejected, whether the harvest feels full or empty, God knows your name. That's the grace we carry. That's the joy we live.

Amen.