

## Full of Joy

Luke 10:1-24

### When might we “throw a party”?

Why “throw a party” if the event itself is joyous?

To bring the fullness of the joy that is there

To bring others into that fullness of joy

When might we throw a party in the Kingdom of God?

### Setting the scene: Luke 9

Jesus sent out His 12 apostles

Proclaim the Kingdom of God → say

Heal the sick → do

Yet the 12 and the rest still needed a lot of growth!

Their thinking and attitudes were so different from Jesus

They didn't have the power Jesus thought they should have

Jesus's description: “unbelieving and perverse”

And this included the 12...

who were the ones Jesus chose

who had the most access to Jesus



## Luke 10:1-24

### 1-9: Jesus sent out 72 to bring the Kingdom of God near

Pray earnestly: more workers!

So much “Kingdom work” is ready to be done

Jesus is able to use people who seemingly were not very ready at all!

Urgency and the gracious power of the Spirit

Go!

Into danger: lambs among wolves

Urgently

Optimistically: bless first...

Heal the sick

Say: “The kingdom of God has come near”

When it is near, you have opportunity to respond

### 10-16: Rejection of messengers is rejection of Jesus & Father

When rejected, declare God's judgment is coming “on that day”

Not: call down fire from heaven or attack

It will be “more bearable...”

Receiving more revelation from God (word & action) and rejecting it results in stricter judgment

Sodom, Tyre, & Sidon were famous for being evil, and for being judged by God

They would have believed with similar opportunities

“The Kingdom has come near”: You know enough to make your choice

### 17-24: Rejoice in God's gracious self-revelation to people

Disciples rejoiced in spiritual power

Jesus affirmed how their work broke Satan's power

God's divine work in His messengers

But there is a greater joy

Being saved forever

name written in the “Book of life”

The Father's plan: reveal the Son to the humble

What we know is far beyond what so many (important) people wanted to see and know

A heart that trusts in God is a gift of God

## The Big Idea

**People's response to the Gospel  
is the most critical decision one can make  
leading to greatest joy  
or unimaginable loss**

## Application

**Utmost importance: our response to the Gospel, enabled by God**

If you know God through Jesus...

You have unimaginable blessings!

Your name is already written on your personal home made by God  
in the Kingdom of Heaven that is coming to earth

Because Jesus revealed the Father to you

What did He do for you?

*Put you in a family where you would see and hear?*

*Moved you to a place where you would see and hear?*

*Brought someone to you so you would see and hear?*

*Spoke through dreams and visions so you would see and hear?*

*And patiently opened your heart*

Not because you were important, but because you were not!

Rejoice!!!

If you don't yet know God through Jesus...

Beg Jesus to reveal Himself to you

Beg Jesus to open your heart to Him

Then trust Him

Because He is already doing it!!

It is entirely a gift of God

Not deserved or earned or discovered

It is a direct action of the Creator God Himself for you

God Himself brought the Kingdom near to you

God Himself opened your heart

Have you ever thrown a salvation party?

Re-tell the story of God's work and rejoice together!

**Join the ministry of bringing the Kingdom of God near**

**What is "Kingdom work"?**

Do the works of God: justice and mercy, beauty and truth, compassion and hope, excellence and praiseworthy, serving, leading, grieving, rejoicing, in patience and kindness, by the Spirit

Especially when you feel and are mistreated

Especially on behalf of the lowly and oppressed

And also on behalf of brothers and sisters in Christ

Tell the Words and works of Jesus

Everywhere you go: both inside and outside the Church

To the glory of God: "the Kingdom of God has come near"

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:16*

Pray earnestly

for more people to do "Kingdom work"

for God to use you and me to bring His Kingdom near

An astounding privilege!

The Kingdom is near when the Spirit of God is near in a person who is praying and following Jesus, both doing and telling

“Priesthood of all believers”: God chooses to use every single believer who will pray and follow Jesus

Go urgently & courageously in ministry

Be an extension of the Kingdom of God to people

Even in our weaknesses & imperfections

[name an imperfect person in the Bible whom God used]

Optimistically, generously, giving the benefit of the doubt

Yet realistically

Bless body and soul

The harvest is plentiful: lots of opportunity for Gospel to be shown and made known

## Conclusion

Have you trusted Him? Why not let today be the day?

Rejoice greatly in God’s work to open your heart

which leads to...

Join courageously and eagerly in Kingdom work

## Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Whom did God use (or is God using) to open your heart to the Gospel? Thank God! And thank this person/these people.
2. Have you ever thrown a salvation party? Would you consider doing that? The goal is to bring the fullness of joy that is there, and to bring others into that joy. It could be with your family, or friends, or neighbors, ...
3. How can your actions “bring the Kingdom of God near”? In other words, where and how can you do, or are you doing, the works of God? Remember that sometimes “Kingdom work” looks very religious (like studying the Bible with people) and sometimes it looks very non-religious (like weeping with those who weep or seeking to make our world a more just place).
4. How can you help bring, or how are you bringing, the knowledge of the Kingdom of God near to people? Sometimes this is through our own words, and sometimes it is by bringing people into contact with the words of others?