

## **FIT FOR MISSIONS**

Today's lesson comes from my personal studies on training for missions. In our lesson text, Jesus had been training the "12" on the 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary evangelism tour of Galilee (Luke 8:1; 9:1-2): "And departing, they began going about among the villages, preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere." (Luke 9:6)

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Final days (Lk.9:51)             | Headed to heaven         |
| • Frontier ministry (Lk.9:52-56)   | Headed to Samaria        |
| • Followers of Christ (Lk.9:57-61) | Headed to the world      |
| • Fit for missions (Lk.9:62)       | Headed to mission fields |

**This lesson will study FIVE Jesus taught regarding qualifying and training believers Fit for Missions.**

### **1. The first thing Jesus taught was the importance of training for the missionary evangelism.**

This is seen in the opening statement of our lesson text: "And it came about when the days were approaching for His ascension that He resolutely set His face to go to Jerusalem." (Lk.9:51)

Jesus was engaged in training His followers for missionary evangelism to continue after His ascension.

It is interesting that the 120 in the upper room took their missionary evangelism serious and preached the gospel throughout their world to their generation (Acts 1:12-15). "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8; Luke 8:1; 9:2, 21-22) [The Gospel]

### **2. The second thing Jesus taught was the importance of courtesy towards the local customs of the mission field.**

It is important to be gracious when seeking permission to preach while on the mission field (1 Cor.8:1-9/ law of expedience).

Notice that in our lesson, Jesus sent messengers to a Samaritan village to seek permission to preach (Luke 9:52).

In His earlier training Jesus instructed on dealing with seeking permission: "And into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it; and abide there until you go away. And as you enter the house, give it your greeting. And if the house is worthy, let your greeting of peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your greeting of peace return to you." (Matt.10:11-13)

### **3. The third thing Jesus taught was the importance of patience when experiencing cultural and religious prejudices on the mission field.**

"But the people there did not welcome Him, because He was heading for Jerusalem." (Lk.9:53)

"The Samaritans refused overnight shelter for the pilgrim traveling to any religious festival in Jerusalem (In this case, it was the feast of Tabernacle of John 7:1-10) (Lk9:51, NIV)

Personal sins like prejudices are not the issue on the mission field but rather the GOSPEL of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Jesus made this point to the same group of trainees in Lk.10:25-37 by the parable of the “Good Samaritan.”

**4. The fourth thing Jesus taught was dealing with negative volition and hostility towards the gospel of grace salvation on the mission field.**

His advice was leave without being mean spirited or rude: “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shred as serpents, and innocent as doves.” (Matt.10:16).

Jesus taught the mission policy of “shaking off the dust.” “And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet.” (Matt.10:14)

In our lesson, the disciples of Jesus wanted to call fire down from heaven upon the Samaritans (Lk.9:53-54). But Jesus rebuked this idea (Lk.9:54) “But He turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘you do not know what kind of spirit you are of.’” (9:55; 2 Pet.3:9)

On the mission field, the missionary is searching for positive volition towards God consciousness and the gospel hearing. “For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” (Lk.9:56).

**5. The fifth thing Jesus taught was qualifying people for the mission training.**

This is where we got the title for this lesson, **Fit for Missions**.

God began sending people out of the villages to volunteer for missionary evangelism training. “And as they were going along the road, someone said to Him, ‘ I will follow You wherever You go.” (Lk.9:57)

Our lesson text deals with 3 out of 100 or more interviews recorded in our lesson text (Lk.9:58-62).

- First was a volunteer (Lk.9:57-58) challenged with fox holes and bird nests.
- Second recruited by Jesus (Lk.9:59-60) challenged with dead bury the dead.
- Third was a volunteer (Lk.9:61-62) challenged with plowing and looking backward.

Apparently these three didn’t become part of the mission training team because Jesus only recruited 72 for missionary training. “Now after this the Lord appointed 72 others, and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.” (Lk.10:1)

**6. Here is Jesus’ challenge to each of us!**

**“THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; THEREFORE BESEECH THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST.”(Lk.10:2)**

- Do you own a pair of gospel shoes? (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16)
- Do you wear them all the time or just on special occasions? (Eph.5:15)

**(Eph.5:15)**

**“And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”**