

IN ANOTHER PASSAGE, ITS INDICATED THAT JESUS WOULD TAKE THE TWELVE ASIDE AND EXPLAIN THINGS TO THEM THAT HE DID NOT NECESSARILY SHARE WITH OTHERS.

THEY WERE THE ONES, WHO FIRST AND FOREMOST HAD TO UNDERSTAND THE THINGS THAT WERE HAPPENING:

LIKE HIS APPROACHING DEATH, THE THREAT OF THE PHARISEES AND OF ROME.

THEY WERE ALSO LIKE WARNINGS TO THE TWELVE.

STAY WITH ME AND YOU ARE GOING TO STRUGGLE.

BY THE TENTH CHAPTER OF LUKE HE INFORMED THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIM AND HEARD HIS WORDS AND SAW HIS ACTIONS.

SO HE PICKED SEVENTY TWO PEOPLE TO GO OUT ON THEIR OWN TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST.

AND IN THE PASSAGE WE'VE HEARD, EVEN THOUGH ITS NOT SAID SPECIFICALLY, ITS ABOUT CHOICES THAT ARE MADE.

IT'S ABOUT CHOOSING ONE THING OR ANOTHER.

IT'S IN JUST ABOUT EVERY LINE OF THE GOSPEL TODAY.

WE'RE TOLD HE APPOINTED A FURTHER SEVENTY TWO AND GAVE THEM A MISSION.

AND THE FIRST CHOICE WAS MADE.

THE PEOPLE NO DOUBT HAD FAMILIES TO TAKE CARE OF, TO SUPPORT.

THEY HAD ALL KINDS OF COMMITMENTS TO OTHERS AND TO OTHER SITUATIONS.

THEY HAD TO CHOOSE WHAT WAS MORE IMPORTANT.

WHAT JESUS WANTED AND NEEDED AND WHAT THE PEOPLE WANTED AND NEEDED.

APPARENTLY THEY DECIDED THAT THEY NEEDED CHRIST.

THE BEST CHOICE IN THE LONG RUN FOR THEM AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND FOR ALL PEOPLE.

JESUS EVEN SEEMS TO GIVE THEM ANOTHER WAY TO BACK OUT OF THEIR COMMITMENT.

HE WAS TELLING THEM EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT.

THEY WERE TO TAKE NOTHING THAT WAS NECESSARY:

NO MONEY, NO SACK, NO SANDALS.

PROBABLY FOR TWO REASONS FOR THIS MISSION.

FIRST, NOTHING SHOULD BE TAKEN THAT WOULD SLOW THEM DOWN.

THE MISSION WAS TOO IMPORTANT

AS WELL, IT MEANT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON CHRIST TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR BASIC NEEDS.

THEY HAD TO TRUST HIM IN A BIG WAY.

ALSO, SOME PEOPLE THEY MET WOULD REJECT THEM ALONG WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT SOME WOULD BE ANGERED BY THE ITINERANT PREACHERS.

AND THEN THERE'S THE OTHER GROUP THAT HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE.

THEY WERE IN THEIR HOMES, TAKING CARE OF CROPS AND SHEEP, THEIR LIVELIHOOD.

THEY WEREN'T ASKED TO GO ANYWHERE.

ONLY TO LISTEN FOR A FEW MOMENTS ABOUT CHRIST.

THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE EXCEPT TO STAND AND LISTEN.

FOR SOME, THEIR CHOICE WAS, 'I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER TO DO.'

AND THEIR LIVES WOULD NOT CHANGE.

THOSE WHO LISTENED BY HAVE BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT WHAT THEY HEARD BUT AT LEAST A SEED WAS PLANTED.

FOR OTHERS, IT MAY HAVE BEEN JUST WHAT THEY HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR AND THE SPIRIT OF THE SEVENTY TWO AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD INSPIERED THE.

A LOT OF CHOICES IN THIS READING TODAY.

A LOT OF DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS THAT PEOPLE COULD HAVE GONE.

AND EACH ONE WOULD DETERMINE, WHETHER THEY REALIZED IT, THE VERY FUTURE OF THEIR LIVES.

I THINK, OR AT LEAST I HOPE, IT'S OBVIOUS ABOUT THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE.

THE IMPORTANT CHOICES THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE HAVE CONSEQUENCES.

SOME ARE GOOD AND SOME ARE BAD.

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES.

BUT AT THE SAME TIME, LESS MISTAKES, WHEN SOMEONE IS WILLING TO LISTEN.

TO SEE NOT ONLY WHAT OTHERS ARE TELLING US,

BUT ALSO WHAT CHRIST IS TELLING US.

AND WE ARE NOT BEING ASKED TO GO SOMEWHERE AND TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT LIFE WITHOUT DECISIONS.

BUT WHAT WE START WITH, WITH FAITH, WITH GOALS THAT ARE GOOD AND LASTING AND WITH LOVE TO THE FAMILIES WE HAVE.

AND NONE OF THEM ARE REALLY ABOUT OURSELVES BUT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WE CARE FOR AND ABOUT THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

THOSE ARE THE DECISIONS, THE CHOICES, WE SHOULD TAKE ONLY AFTER DETERMINING WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR US. WHAT IS LASTING, AND TO ADD GOD TO THE EQUATION.

THE LAST PART CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.