

Resting in God
"Knowing Who He is and who we are in Him"

Study 16

Luke 10:8-12 NIV

"When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.

9) Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'

10) But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,

11) 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.'

12) I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Jesus understood the importance of what He and His Father were about to do as He sent forth an invitation to the incredible life that was going to be available to people soon. He added a couple of healings to emphasize His message that ordinary men were about to be able to do some extraordinary things if they followed Him.

In sending forth His disciples, Jesus was setting a pattern that would be characteristic of His Father's way of doing things until everything is finalized. He was showing them that Father God always sends forth an invitation, and then always shows a consequence when His invitation is rejected. In every instance, rejection of God's invitation is not a good thing. With some invitations, such as the invitation to accept Jesus as the only way to Him, rejection has dire eternal consequences.

God has invited everyone to participate in an astounding way of living in Christ. He has provided a way that is infinitely better than anything that the other kingdoms, even though very familiar, can provide, with a indescribably better outcome when all things are complete. Anyone who accepts His invitation finds the answer to life, and the purpose that God gave breath to all of mankind.

Within that invitation, we receive many invitations to participate with Him while He orchestrates His plans. The life of those of us who accept Christ's life in us have the opportunity to travel as pioneers to unlimited new and exciting frontiers with Him. We have the astounding privilege of participating in His presentation of what is available to others just as the first disciples did when Jesus sent them.

Our lives, then, are to be a series of positive responses to everything He presents to us. We are to agree to go where He wants us to go, when He chooses to send us, with whatever message He has for those we go to. We are His ambassadors of the final frontier of His love. We are His agents walking in His Kingdom with Him, in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Jesus created the idea of the pioneer when He said to His followers to tell others of a new frontier that was available to them. In His command, He was stretching them far beyond their comfort zones. He was moving them from the place that they were in their hearts, to a place that would be an example for millions of followers of His ways for centuries to come.

If you follow the ways of Jesus, you are going to be continually moving from your comfortable places to new frontiers. You will also be calling others to do the same because the Kingdom of heaven is always advancing forward. If any follower of Jesus' ways feels that they have gone as far as they need to go, they become stagnant. Soon a spiritual atrophy sets in and eventually they die spiritually. They become prey for the lower kingdoms.

If you say that you follow Jesus, you must keep pressing into the Father's arms for more of Christ to be formed in you. You must keep moving forward with fresh manna from His lips and His heart or you will never be equipped to meet the new challenges that the lower kingdoms present each day. You will also be of no effect to lead others to the place the Lord has for them.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

There is great harmony in the union of aggressive advancement and spiritual rest. Both are attained on the lap of our Father God. Both are very necessary for the spiritual wealth of those who follow Jesus and choose to advance the Kingdom of God with Him.

Having intimacy with Father God always reveals Who He is and who we are not. It always results in a deeper understanding of His love and a motivation to serve Him. It is where we find our purpose in life.

As we rest in His almighty presence, we receive a revelation of His person and gain the wisdom of His ways. Knowing who He is and what He has done allows us to rest comfortably in His protection for us. We are safe in His arms no matter what comes our way or what we are called to do.

For thought or discussion:

Can you still love someone and at the same time shake off the dust of their lives

When do you walk away from someone who will not hear what you have to say about Jesus