

INTRODUCTION 引言

When there is a need, there will be a solution. Thanks to the internet and especially to YouTube, many people have become experts. For example, you do not need to buy herbicide. All you need are three ingredients: vinegar, salt and soap detergent. You have to use it with caution though, because that mixture will kill your lawn too. There are many other tricks like that. Two things we can learn from it. First, some complicated matters are actually not that difficult. Second, people love to tell others if certain method works. The same is true when it comes to sharing the gospel. It is so simple that every Christian can do it. Also, when you feel the joy of salvation, you will be glad to tell others about Jesus. God can use you as a gospel messenger. Let us set the stage for the passage today. Two important things happened in the previous chapter: the Lord called twelve disciples and Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, namely the Savior promised in the Old Testament. Subsequently, Jesus revealed to His disciples that He would die. But He would rise from the dead three days later. Jesus would depart soon. Therefore, someone must carry on the gospel mission. Thanks to many faithful Christians in the past two thousand years. They took the gospel to different places and they translated the Bible into their many languages. But the mission is not done yet. Today, Jesus is calling you too. Will you be obedient to His command?

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Recruitment for the Mission 使命的召募

First, let us consider the recruitment for the mission. Verse 1 says Jesus called seventy-two people. (Your Bible may say seventy depending on which ancient manuscripts it is based on.) We do not know the background of those people. They were basically willing to accept Jesus' calling. The Lord sent them out two by two. That was common in those days when people traveled. They can watch over each other on the way. Jesus gives them further instructions in verse 2: ...**"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."** The harvest refers to lost souls. Laborers are sent to save people much like farmers harvesting crops. Timing is critical in a harvest. The crops are ripe. They will be lost if they are not reaped in time. They may rot in the field, be eaten by birds or damaged in storms. Some people are waiting to accept Jesus. But someone must share the gospel with them. People will be lost forever if they do not receive Jesus in this life. The needs are so great that the disciples must pray to God to mobilize more workers. But prayer must be accompanied by action. What is the next word in verse 3? GO! Believers must pray and they must also go. Paul says in Romans 10:13-14 – **13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?** If no one shares the gospel then no one will be saved. You are a believer because someone told you about Jesus. God's eternal blessing should not stop at you. Today, Jesus recruits you to carry out the mission. He can use you like the 72 people. Pray that God will give you courage and opportunities to reach out to seekers. Tell them how you became a Christian, and why Jesus means so much to you. Invite them to church too. You can ask another

believer to go with you. That way you can pray for each other, and help each other in answering questions. Moreover, you know the principle of exponential growth. Say one believer leads another person to Christ in one year. Four persons will be saved in four years. Suppose each new believer helps another person to become a Christian per year. There will be sixteen believers at the end of the same period of time. Imagine a thousand or a million Christians doing the same thing. Jesus may return in a few years because everyone has heard the gospel! The harvest is plentiful and many workers are needed. Sharing the gospel needs effort. Planting veggies in your garden is tough work too. But I doubt anyone will complain when it comes to harvest time. All the hard work is paid off. Similarly, there is no greater joy when a person receives Christ.

2. Reminders for the Mission 使命的提醒

After recruiting workers, Jesus gave them some reminders for the mission. First, they had to stay alert. Jesus tells them in verse 3: **“Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.”** There would be dangers because they were going into enemy’s territory. They were confronting the force of darkness to rescue souls. There would be opposition. After all, who would like to hear a message of repentance? But Jesus would give them His power. They were never alone in the battle. Jesus’ second reminder was about the actual duties. Skip down to verses 8-9: **8 “Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. 9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’”** They would receive the food and lodging they needed. God is faithful to those He calls. Nowadays, many missionaries also live by faith. They look upon God’s provision. Then in verse 9, Jesus says that their ministries were to heal patients. Jesus gave them authority to perform miracles. It is a proof that the Kingdom of God had arrived. Jesus is the King. Thirdly, Jesus told them the responses they would get. Look at verse 16: **“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”** Some would receive the message, while others would reject it. But it was Jesus that people rejected. The workers could not foresee people’s responses. Likewise, farmers cannot predict factors like weeds, pests, drought and storms. Those messengers should do their work faithfully and God would take care of the results. Those three reminders are also for us. Gospel-seekers may be friendly or hostile. We must rely on God for wisdom, patience and grace. People may come with various needs: jobless, loneliness or sickness. They may not be interested in the gospel unless their needs are met. We heard the saying: people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. Helping people solve their problems are opportunities to introduce Jesus to them. Their deepest need is spiritual in nature. The one true God loves us so much that He died on the cross for our sins. Only through Jesus can we be reconciled with the Father. Moreover, the fact that we will face rejection should not disappoint us. Most of us did not receive Jesus the first time we heard the gospel. Through our effort, we help our audience get a few steps closer to become Christians. Our task is not to save souls. You hear me right! Our job is to tell people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will work in people’s hearts and will bring them to repentance.

3. Results of the Mission 使命的結果

Sometime later, those 72 servants returned and they reported the results of the mission to Jesus. They made some progress. Look at verse 17: **The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”** They were excited that evil spirits were driven

out in Jesus' name. According to the Bible, demons are not the spirits of dead people. They are fallen angels and followers of Satan. Their main goal is to lead people away from God. Through miracles, the gospel workers witnessed the authority of Jesus' name. Without a doubt, they were encouraged by the results. They could help people by calling on Jesus' name. But the Lord corrects their focus in verse 20: **“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”** The power to cast out demons proves that God's power is in true believers. The book of Revelation tells us that God has a book of life. It contains the names of all the Christians throughout history. Relieving people from demons' oppression is good. But that is only a temporary need. There will be a bigger joy when they accept Jesus. That is an eternal blessing. Jesus burst out spontaneous praise to God in verse 21: **...“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”** “These things” stand for the gospel message. People can comprehend the truth not because they are smarter. But it is because God gives them understanding. The Bible says God demotes the proud but He promotes the humble. God wants us to be wise, not with earthly wisdom but with heavenly wisdom. He asks us to be child-like but not childish. People can ask any question about God. Eventually, they must submit before Him with a child-like faith, admitting that God is much wiser. The gospel message is actually very simple. Step 1: We admit that we are sinners. Step 2: We believe that Jesus is God, and He died for our sins. Step 3: We receive Jesus by faith as our Savior and Lord. Today, Jesus does not call you to chase away demons. Rather, He sends you to a classroom, office or gym to liberate people from the bondage of sin. Satan uses different means to enslave people. It can be an idol, money or pleasure. We must employ spiritual weapons to engage in a spiritual battle. We must pray in Jesus' name that God will clear up people's mind. Besides sharing our testimonies, we must quote God's Word. The Bible is powerful to soften stubborn hearts. At the end, people must surrender to Jesus and acknowledge Him as their Lord. That is a true sign of salvation.

CONCLUSION 結論

Jesus is calling you to be a gospel messenger. Will you be obedient to His command? Unlike Pastor Billy Graham, most Christians may not be able to preach to thousands of people at one time. A majority of people are saved through personal contact. Perhaps a family member, a relative or friend share the gospel with them and subsequently lead them to Christ. We should not overlook a casual opportunity to tell people about Jesus. God sees every person as precious. The following story illustrates that point. According to a waste management company, Americans literally throw a lot of money away each year. The company started picking up coins in the trash seven years ago. It collects \$10 million worth of coins per year ever since. There are detectors that sort out metal from trash. The coins will then be washed. Finally, workers separate usable coins from deformed ones. With the convenience of electronic payments, coins have become outdated. People leave them at stores. Coins are also stuck in sofas or hidden under furniture. Many people do not even bother to pick it up when they drop a penny or dime on the street. After all, it is just a coin. But it will be a substantial amount when you save up hundreds and thousands of coins. The same is true for evangelism. God saves lost sheep one at a time through our effort. Given time, there will be millions of Jesus' followers. They will end up in heaven.

INTRODUCTION 引言

當有需要時，就會有解決方案。感謝互聯網，尤其是 YouTube，許多人成為了專家。例如，你不需要購買除草劑。你只需要三樣東西：醋、鹽和清潔劑。但你必須小心使用它，因為這種混合物也會殺死你的草。類似的偏方還有很多。我們可以從中學到兩件事。首先，一些複雜的事情其實並沒有那麼困難。其次，人們喜歡向別人分享他們的心得。傳福音也是如此。道理非常簡單，每個基督徒都能做到。而且，當你感受到救恩的喜樂時，你會樂意向別人講述耶穌。神可以使用你成為福音使者。讓我們先了解一下今天這段經文的背景。上一章發生了兩件重要的事：主呼召十二個門徒，彼得承認耶穌是基督，就是舊約所應許的救主。隨後，耶穌向門徒透露祂將要死，但三天後祂會從死裡復活。耶穌快要離開。因此，必須有人來延續福音的使命。感謝過去兩千多年來許多忠心的基督徒。他們把福音帶到不同的地方，並將聖經翻譯成許多語言。但是使命尚未完成。今天，耶穌也在呼召你。你願意聽從祂的命令嗎？

EXPLANATION 解釋

1. Recruitment for the Mission 使命的招募

首先，讓我們思考一下使命的招募。第 1 節說耶穌招募了七十二人。（你的聖經可能說七十人，這取決於它所根據的古代手抄本。）我們不知道那些人的背景。他們只是願意接受耶穌呼召的人。主差遣他們兩個兩個地出去。那是當時人們旅行的常見方式，這樣他們可以在路上互相照應。耶穌在第 2 節給了他們進一步的指示：...
「要收的莊稼多，作工的人少。所以，你們當求莊稼的主打發工人出去收他的莊稼。」莊稼是指迷失的靈魂。工人被派去搶救靈魂，就像農夫收割莊稼一樣。收割的關鍵是時機。莊稼已經成熟了。如果不及時收割，就會導致損失。它們可能會在田裡腐爛、被飛鳥吃掉或是被暴風雨打壞。有些人已經準備好接受耶穌，但必須有人與他們分享福音。如果人們不在今生接受耶穌，他們就會永遠沉淪。由於需要是如此之大，門徒們必須祈求神動員更多的工人。但禱告必須伴隨著行動。第 3 節的第一個動詞是什麼？去！信徒必須禱告，也必須出去。保羅在羅馬書 10:13-14 中說：13 因為「凡求告主名的，就必得救。」14 然而，人未曾信他，怎能求他呢？未曾聽見他，怎能信他呢？沒有傳道的，怎能聽見呢？如果沒有人傳福音，那麼就沒有人會得救。你能成為信徒，因為有人告訴你有關耶穌的事。神永恆的祝福不應該停留在你那裡。今天，耶穌招募你來參與福音使命。祂可以像使用那 72 個人一樣使用你。祈求神賜給你勇氣和機會去接觸福音朋友。告訴他們你如何成為基督

徒，以及為什麼耶穌對你如此重要，並邀請他們來教會。你可以請另一位信徒和你一起去。這樣你們就可以互相禱告，並且互相補充回答問題。而且，你應該知道倍數增長的原則。假設一個信徒在一年內帶領另一個人歸向基督。四年內將有四個人得救。假設每個新信徒每年都帶領另一個人成為基督徒。四年結束時，將有十六名信徒。想像一千或一百萬基督徒都做同樣的事情。耶穌可能在幾年後便回來，因為每個人都聽過福音了！莊稼很多，需要許多工人。分享福音需要付出努力。你在後院種菜也是一項艱鉅的任務。但我懷疑到收割的季節會有人抱怨。所有的努力都得到了回報。同樣，當一個人接受基督時，沒有比這更大的喜樂了。

2. Reminders for the Mission 使命的提醒

耶穌招募工人後，便給他們一些提醒。首先，他們必須提高警覺。耶穌在第 3 節告訴他們：「你們去吧！我差你們出去，如同羊羔進入狼群。」他們進入敵人的陣地，所以會有危險。他們正在對抗黑暗勢力來拯救靈魂。他們會碰到反對的聲音。畢竟，誰喜歡聽到悔改的信息呢？但耶穌會把祂的能力賜給他們。他們在戰鬥中從來都不是孤單的。耶穌的第二個提醒是關於實際的責任。跳到 8-9 節：8「無論進哪一城，人若接待你們，給你們擺上什麼，你們就吃什麼。9 要醫治那城裡的病人，對他們說：『神的國臨近你們了。』」神對祂所呼召的人是信實的。如今，許多宣教士也是過信心的生活。他們仰望神的供應。然後在第 9 節中，耶穌說他們的事工是醫治病人。耶穌賜給他們行神蹟的權柄。這是證明神的國已經來臨。耶穌是王。第三，耶穌告訴他們將遇到什麼回應。請看第 16 節：...「聽從你們的就是聽從我；棄絕你們的就是棄絕我；棄絕我的就是棄絕那差我來的。」有些人會接受，其他人會拒絕。但人們拒絕的是耶穌。工人們無法預測人們的反應。同樣，農夫無法預計雜草、害蟲、乾旱和暴風雨等因素。那些使者必須忠心地做工，然後把結果交給神。這三個提醒也適用於我們。福音朋友也許是友善的，也可能是帶著敵意的。我們必須依靠神的智慧、耐心和恩典。人們可能有各種需求：失業、孤單或患病。除非他們的需要得到解決，否則他們可能對福音不感興趣。我們都聽過這樣一句話：人們不會在乎你知道多少，除非他們知道你有多在乎。幫助人們解決問題是將耶穌介紹給他們的機會。人們最深層的需要是屬靈的。獨一真神如此愛我們，甚至為我們的罪死在十字架上。唯有透過耶穌我們才能與天父和好。此外，我們被拒絕這一個事實不應讓我們氣餒。我們大多數人都不是第一次聽到福音就接受耶穌的。藉著我們的努力，我們幫助聽眾更接近成為基督徒。我們的任務不是拯救靈魂。你沒聽錯！我們的工作是向人們講述耶穌。聖靈會在人們的心中工作，使他們悔改。

3. Results of the Mission 使命的結果

過了一段時間後，那七十二個僕人回來了，他們向耶穌報告使命的結果。他們取得了一些成果。看第 17 節：那七十個人歡歡喜喜的回來，說：「主啊！因你的名，就是鬼也服了我們。」他們很高興能奉耶穌的名驅趕邪靈。根據聖經，邪靈不是死人的靈魂。他們是墮落天使和撒旦的跟隨者。他們的主要目的是帶領人遠離神。那些福音使者透過神蹟見證了耶穌之名的權柄。毫無疑問，他們對結果感到鼓舞。他們可以透過呼求耶穌的名來幫助人。但主在第 20 節糾正了他們的焦點：「然而，不要因鬼服了你們就歡喜，要因你們的名記錄在天上歡喜。」趕鬼的能力證明神的大能在真信徒身上發揮作用。啟示錄告訴我們，神有一本生命冊，記錄歷史上所有基督徒的名字。讓人們擺脫惡魔的壓迫是好的。但那只是暫時的需要。當人們接受耶穌時，會有更大的喜樂。那是永恆的祝福。在第 21 節中，耶穌由衷地讚美神：... 「父啊，天地的主，我感謝你！因為你將這些事向聰明通達人就藏起來，向嬰孩就顯出來。父啊！是的，因為你的美意本是如此。」「這些事」是指福音信息。人們之所以能夠明白真理，並不是因為他們比較聰明，乃是因為神賜給他們理解力。聖經說神降低驕傲的人，卻提升謙卑的人。神希望我們有智慧，但不是屬世的智慧，而是屬天的智慧。祂要求我們像孩子一樣單純，但不是幼稚。人們可以問任何有關神的問題。最終，他們必須以孩子般的信心順服在神面前，承認神比他們更有智慧。福音信息其實非常簡單。第一步：我們承認自己是罪人。第二步：我們相信耶穌是神，祂為我們的罪而死。第三步：我們憑信心接受耶穌為我們的救主和生命的主。今天，耶穌沒有呼召你去趕鬼。祂卻派你去教室、辦公室或健身房，把人們從罪的束縛中解放出來。撒但用不同的手段來奴役人。它可以是偶像、金錢或享樂。我們必須使用屬靈的武器來參與屬靈的戰爭。我們必須奉耶穌的名禱告，求神使人們的頭腦清醒。除了分享我們的見證之外，我們還必須引用神的話。聖經有能力軟化頑固的心。最終，人們必須降服於耶穌並承認是他們的主。這是得救的真正標誌。

CONCLUSION 結論

今天，耶穌也在呼召你。你願意聽從祂的命令嗎？與葛培理牧師不同，大多數基督徒可能無法同時向幾千人講道。大多數人是透過個人接觸而得救的。也許家人、親戚或朋友與他們分享福音，並隨後帶領他們歸向基督。我們不應該忽視向人們講述耶穌的機會。神看每個人都是寶貴的。下面的故事就說明了這一點。據一家廢棄物處理公司稱，美國人每年都丟掉很多錢。該公司七年前開始在垃圾中撿硬幣。從那時起，它每年都會收集價值一千萬美元的硬幣。有探測器可以從垃圾中分別金屬。然後硬幣將被清乾淨。最後，工人們把可以回收的硬幣與變形的硬幣分開。隨著電子付費的方便，硬幣逐漸過時了。人們把硬幣留在商店裡。硬幣也卡在沙發中或藏在家具底下。許多人在街上掉下一分錢或一毛錢時甚至懶得去撿。畢竟，它只是一枚硬幣。但當你存下成千上萬的硬幣時，那將是一筆可觀的金額。傳福音也是如此。神透過我們的努力，一次拯救一隻迷失的羊。隨著時間的推移，將會有數以百萬計的耶穌跟隨者。他們最終會去天堂。