

Luke 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Analysis

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. The Greek *anedeixen* (ἀνέδειξεν, "appointed") literally means "showed forth" or "publicly designated"—Jesus formally commissioned this missionary band. The number seventy (some manuscripts read seventy-two) likely corresponds to the seventy elders of Israel (Numbers 11:16) or the seventy nations in Genesis 10, symbolizing universal mission.

The phrase **two and two** (*ana duo, ἀνὰ δύο*) reflects Jesus' consistent practice of paired witnesses (Mark 6:7), fulfilling Deuteronomy 19:15's requirement of two witnesses for testimony. The prepositional phrase **before his face** (*pro prosōpou autou, πρὸ προσώπου αὐτοῦ*) indicates they were advance messengers preparing the way—like John the Baptist prepared for Jesus' first coming, these disciples prepared towns for His immediate arrival. This missionary sending prefigures the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and models apostolic witness throughout Acts.

Historical Context

This mission occurred during Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51). Unlike the Twelve's mission to Israel alone (Matthew 10:5-6), the seventy likely included Gentile territories, foreshadowing the church's universal mission. First-century

traveling teachers commonly sent advance parties to arrange lodging and gather audiences. The paired sending provided mutual support, accountability, and credible witness in cultures where individual testimony was suspect.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' pattern of sending disciples 'two and two' inform modern missionary strategy and church planting?
2. What does it mean that these disciples went 'before his face' to prepare the way, and how do Christians prepare the way for Christ today?
3. Why might Jesus have chosen seventy (or seventy-two) disciples for this particular mission?

Interlinear Text

Μετὰ	δὲ	ταῦτα	ἀνέδειξεν	ὁ	κύριος	καὶ	ἑτέρους
After	G1161	these things	appointed	G3588	the Lord	also	other
G3326		G5023	G322		G2962	G2532	G2087
ἑβδομήκοντα	καὶ	ἀπέστειλεν	αὐτὸς	ἀνὰ	δύο	πρὸ	
seventy		also	sent	he himself	two	and two	before
G1440		G2532	G649	G846	G303	G1417	G4253
προσώπου	αὐτὸς	εἰς	πᾶσαν	πόλιν	καὶ	τόπον	οὗ
face	he himself	into	every	city	also	place	G3739
G4383	G846	G1519	G3956	G4172	G2532	G5117	
ἔμελλεν	αὐτὸς	ἔρχεσθαι					
would	he himself	come					
G3195	G846	G2064					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:52 (Parallel theme): And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him.

Numbers 11:16 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.