

WS: LET'S REVIEW — Holding phrases for the four Gospels. Memorize the following four statements!

These hold the key to understanding the four Gospels.

MATTHEW: Jesus' Teaching Manual for living the deeply satisfied life;

MARK: Our mission is to awaken those spiritually asleep;

LUKE: Jesus and Jesus' message is the same;

JOHN: The meaning of our baptismal experience.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IHOP BIBLE STUDY

12 Topic: "Authority to Send Out" A study page

Luke: 9: 1 – 9, "Jesus Sends Out the Twelve;" Luke 10: 1 – 24, "Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two." A study page

The purpose of the Gospel of Luke is told in the opening verses in the first chapter, ". . . it seemed good to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." It is this "orderly account" that provides the organization of our study material. **This is lesson number 12 of 31.**

Read the assigned THEME at one time.

NOTE: Luke uses these two send outs for different purposes. In Luke 9: 1 – 9, Luke makes a historical statement while setting it in the context of "power and authority." The history involved is that of Herod's beheading of John the Baptizer. An interesting sidelight is Herod's desire to "see him." Think for a moment about anyone trying to catch the attention of US President. Yet, here the Chief Executive in Israel is interested in seeing who this Jesus is.

In Luke 10: 1 – 4, Luke sets the context as ". . .rejoice that your names are written in heaven." This latter scripture is much more complex, providing "warnings" to Jewish settlements (Korazin and Bethsaida) while observing the gentile settlements (Tyre and Sidon) already were awakened.

Both scriptures reveal a sense of urgency. This experience is supported by "Take noting for the journey—no staff. . ." (9:3), and ". . .do not greet anyone on the road," (10: 4b – a common courtesy in oriental society).

1. **vss. 9: 1 –9 --- "Jesus Send Out the Twelve"**

The mission to which Jesus sends out the twelve is to **preach the gospel** (Good News) and to **heal** people everywhere (vs. 6). Do a Gut Trip Analysis on emboldened words.

WS: The "Gospel" always is known as "The Good News." From a Gut Trip point-of-view, this experience is variously identified as living as "victims or victors," or in the formula of "God don't make no junk;" "our present reality is a gift, that's why it is called a 'present';" "our past is not only forgiven it is forgotten;" and "our future is entirely an open possibility."

The other highlighted word in this sentence is "**heal**." In the Bible, sickness is a metaphor for our spiritual condition. In most instances in the Bible sickness is associated with the experience of SIN that is *separation from neighbor, self and God*.

Another way to experience SIN is that of remaining UNAWAKENED to God's presence in our lives. The unawakened are those who fail to embrace their situation.

This failure is to deny that their "PRESENT" is a gift, and the result is the unawakened choose to be victims rather than victors!

The following is an illustration from a person that I consider to be AWAKENED. Rev. Angie is a Christian who understands life through the experience of spiritual mysticism. In Her daily on-line meditation for October 20th, she wrote,

"I love the higher frequency of me! I am a vibration from God with a mandate to be fully me! God is the cosmic fractal matrix of my life and the life of my true center! Unceasing and ever increasing good blesses me holographically! I am a living example of multidimensional beauty, health and wholeness! My every thought, word and action is rooted in the paradigm of Oneness and centered in grace! I caught It, I got It and I am grateful for It! And so it is! Amen!"

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Do you hear the Good News in this statement? Once you get past her use of spiritualist metaphors, she is in touch with God who is Perfect At-One-Ment. We fish in the same spiritual pond. Rev. Angie uses different bait than we do in Gut Trip Analysis.

What is the nature of the "power and authority" Jesus gives to these twelve? Don't get trapped into Head Trip Analysis. Instead, ask yourself what is the experience you have of these terms.

WS: The danger here is to think of "power" and "authority" as an object we receive. It is not. Power and authority are derived from something else. For the Awakened (Christians) the source of our power and authority are derived from being Awakened.

2. vss. 10: 1 – 24 -- "Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two"

We are treating this complex theme as one event. *The Interpreter's Bible* treats the topic in 5 sections. Obviously much time could be taken to explore the riches of this theme. However, from a Gut Trip Analysis, it is possible to isolate the major purpose for sending out the 70 is to preach that "The kingdom of God is near" (vs. 9:11b).

a. Take a moment to ground the "Kingdom of God" as a Gut Trip experience.

WS: Again, it is helpful to remind ourselves that the Kingdom of God IS NOT A PLACE, rather it IS A RELATIONSHIP. The Kingdom of God is the EXPERIENCE of At-One-Ment. It might be said that the Kingdom of God is the relationship we have to Perfect At-One-Ment. Our human experience is limited to little episodes of At-One-Ment. Obviously, Jesus was more awake than we are, because he lived profoundly aware of God who is experienced as Perfect At-One-Ment.

Sometime, Gut Trip Analysis associates the Kingdom of God with the experience of the Spiritual Oasis. This always is discovered in the middle of our human experience that is called the human desert. The Spiritual Oasis—the experience of peace, deep satisfaction and blessed assurance—is the experience of At-One-Ment.

b. What the in the experience that the Kingdom of God “is near?”

WS: Two views are possible in this statement.

1. Jesus is the embodiment of this experience. Consequently, Jesus fulfilled the Messianic expectation that God’s Kingdom (relationship) already lived among them.
2. The demonstration provided by Jesus’ life, ministry, death and resurrection is that we already live in the Kingdom of God but we are blind to it. This is the point that Rev. Angie is making: we already are at home in God’s Kingdom. While we are blind to this reality, this is what Gut Trip Analysis names as living in the human desert. Becoming awakened to this reality, is what Gut Trip Analysis calls living in the Spiritual Oasis.

c. What is the Gut Trip experience that “Satan” is overcome. Keep it a Gut Trip Analysis!

WS: The terms “Satan” and “evil” are among the most misunderstood words in the New Testament. The problem is familiar to us, because we make the terms OBJECTS instead of relationships or experiences.

The term “evil” is easily associated with the human experience of “hopelessness.” This occurs when we are convinced we are victims! Evil most often is confused with The Way Life Is. Frequently, people associate “When Bad Things Happen to Good People” with the activity of EVIL. This is not true. Bad things happen to good people because this is The Way Life Is.

The role that EVIL plays in this is when 1) we are convinced we deserve bad things, and 2) when the human situation is hopeless. These are LIES, and this is EXACTLY WHAT EVIL IS – IT IS A LIE. The reason this is a lie is that humans have the choice to be victims or to be victors. Jesus’ death and resurrection prove that Jesus was a VICTOR. Those who are Awakened to this Good News, Jesus give us the same choice as well.

The role of SATAN in this formula is the personification of hopeless. Satan is the LIAR!

d. Do some research into the significance of having “your names written in heaven.”

Luke 10: 18 - 20

In general

The term means to share in the Kingdom of God (*Interpreter's Bible*).
The hope of true believers, or the residence of believers.

Biblical References

"Writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end."

Deuteronomy 31: 24

"Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you."

Jeremiah 30: 2

"Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Revelation 22: 7

"I warn every who hears the words of the prophecy of this book."

Revelation 22:18

"Let them be blotted out of the Book of the Living, and not be written with the righteous."

Psalm 69: 28

A Gut Trip Transliteration of Luke 10: 18 - 20

(NRSV) Luke 10:18-20: He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning.

¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.

²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Salmon's transliteration: (vs 18) Jesus observed, "Hopelessness strikes like a bolt of lightning. It frightens and then discourages. It is my purpose to tell you that hopelessness is defeated in my presence. You have a choice: none are victims, all are victors.

(vs. 19) Don't you understand, the demonic powers of hopelessness you can walk on as if they are snakes and scorpions? When you are the hopeful part of society, nothing defeats you.

(vs, 29) However, don't get carried away with your selves in pride because you discovered the secret of true happiness. The thing about which to really be deeply satisfied is that you have the key to the Spiritual Oasis; your name is written in The Book. Now, that is something in which to rejoice.