

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Year of the Lord 2019
Luke 10

Beloved: the NEXT VERSE, after the Gospel lesson today, grants hope and comfort and the Holy Ghost, even to ME, your lousy pastor. And thus, the Spirit's hope and comfort are for all, without exception:

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "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. ¹

Be bold with your poor preacher; and pray with me, because of HIS prayer:

**"Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!"
"Let me see my Savior's face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee!"**

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, "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. ³ **Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.** ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. 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.' ¹⁰ But **whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say,** ¹¹ **'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'**

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 10:1–21). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

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

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

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.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” ¹⁸ And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

In the Name of Jesus:

So...what does the folk of Sodom, from before Christ, have over cities of the New Testament—cities and folk that reject and abuse the angels sent to them; sent now? Genesis 19 tells us of the walk through the daisies Jesus says we New Testament folk will envy Sodom for, soon, when Christ comes with Salvation-never-opposed-again:

²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.²

‘O! How come I COULDN’T be born in Sodom?!’ Who is going to say that? My dear ones: men and women—and children!—just like you and me; on...That...Day. Lord, have mercy upon us!

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ge 19:23–25). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

‘Pastor, can you not—like, right now!—do an us’n versus them; put some gap between those Jesus sends to work in the field and those who reject? Without clear distance between THEM that doesn’t listen and US’N who are in church, listening, you’re starting to scare us a little bit! Speak comfort!’

There is no comfort in this list of words, from the lips of our Savior, Christ the Lord: brought down to Hades, woe, dust and sandals, rejection.

AS there is no comfort when US’N fumble with HIS Name: ‘YOUR Name is powerful, Lord!’ ‘Yeah; I booted Satan out of YOUR HOME! You let ME worry about MY NAME. Do NOT rejoice in what evil you can whup with my Name.’

Our comfort, my dear ones, does NOT lie in what GAP, SEPARATION, DISTANCE, HEIGHT...US’N can achieve over against ‘THEM’—ESPECIALLY by the mighty and pahrfull name-a-Geesus!

The King of true comfort gives comfort true: ‘Y’ALL’S names! They are written down—in heaven. And I SAY that there is now NO...DISTANCE...’

Between heaven and earth; or God and man; between THE Savior and the sinners He came to call to repentance.

The first comfort He spoke is even happier! ‘I send y’all out as lambs, among wolves.’

Arggghh! Surely y’all are way ahead of me here!

The 72—a church type number; so, the CHURCH—ALL His

children and brothers, little ones and disciples: we are SENT where we BELONG; a natural, fitting place for us—wolves, biting, eating others, consuming the next creature for our own ends—but as those who do not belong here any more—lambs.

So what makes a Christian more LAMB now lamb than wolf? The same thing that makes righteous man so much more: a sinner!

What does it? The Lord; His sending; HIS Ministry; and where HE WRITES each of our names.

In the Father's FACE—so God the Father will never go off-task! BEFORE—being wicked and sinful could grab heaven's attention and watch out for the fire!

But NOW—JUST being wicked and sinful grabs heaven's attention; for Heaven emptied completely One Day, for a purpose:

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them where the bedrooms are. ³

Then came another Day; when Heaven was packed to bursting! And, guess with WHO?! Well, WHO needs pardon most?!

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them,

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 2:4–7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”⁴

Dontcha just LOVE the way Jesus prays for His killers, places them in heaven; and they STILL act as if the Old Testament was still roiling and boiling with lava and sulfur and fire?! REAL King; REAL God; REAL Power; would NOT put up with the cross!

My lovelies: there IS hope for the likes of you and me! Does not Jesus KNOW how POINTLESS it is going to be, to pray for those who could not care less about HIM?! Who will STILL gamble for His clothes, join the mocking, und so weiter?! Does this NEW KING not see that the FIRST MEN He shepherds into the Kingdom of Heaven—Heaven is NEVER going to gain TRACTION in their lives?

Well, I’M smiling! I pray you are too!

For our whole DAY would be filled up with muttering and barking and baring out teeth, over the WRONGS the folk of our land do, daily and much: slouching toward Gomorrah!—if we did not need to find time our own selves to DARE Heaven pay attention to the chunk of the day WE dominate with OUR desires, rather than the love of God.

Despite our Baptism; despite His Word taught us; despite even eating and drinking His Body and His Blood, poured out for the many—our looks, our words, our huffing and puffing, our darting eyes, rolling eyes, fierce eyes, now proclaim that WE want His Blood poured out for NOT...QUITE...SO...MANY.

O, my dear friends: Heaven knew what it was getting before He

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 23:32–37). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

sent the Eternal Son as David's Son! The Spirit GLADLY rested on This One Man; and set about making His Home with us; knowing full well what we are, and all we can be.

Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem! At least HE is committed to OUR salvation! Even if we are not often even at half-power; half-attention.

And Christ ascended to write, in Blood, these words, for His Father's everlasting delight; now Heaven knows why Heaven exists in the first place:

The healthy do not need a physician; sick men do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance; SINNERS, REAL, hard-boiled, no-pretence sinners are MY work!

There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over 99 who need no such thing—O! Who has lied to them?! I hope it wasn't US!

'The Lord has risen! So arisen, that He even showed Himself to Simon Peter!'

Let the Savior be the Savior; we have a weightier work to do: to be saved utterly by Him!

A good start is the common, communion confession, as His people, that if heaven is focused on forgiving US for acting wolves though we're sheep; then who, out there—who else, of THEM WOLVES...—can He pray for and pardon and save from the fire too in the Name of Jesus!