

some may have happened also in Galilee. Jesus had returned to Galilee after the Feast of Tabernacles. (Lesson VIII.) Early in November (A.D. 29), as Andrews reckons, He and His disciples made their final departure from Galilee. (Luke 9:51; Mark 10:1.) "They went along the borders between Samaria and Galilee, eastward to the Jordan, crossed over into Perca, the region beyond Jordan, and then southerly toward Jerusalem." It was the period of Christ's greatest influence with the people. (Luke 12:1.) See Map, August TEACHERS MONTHLY, p. 288.

### I. The Missionaries, 1, 2.

V. 1. *After these things*; the events of 9:51-62. *Other seventy*; besides the Twelve. He had many followers, including women, some of whom were evidently possessed of means, with which they ministered to His wants. (8:2, 3.) The number "seventy" corresponds with the seventy elders of Moses (Num. 11:16) and the seventy members of the Sanhedrim; or it may refer to the Jewish belief (derived from Gen. 10) that the Gentile nations of the world were seventy. Their choice would, in this case, symbolize a Gentile mission, as the choice of the Twelve (Luke 9:1-6) symbolized a mission to the Jews—from the number of the Tribes. *Two by two*. Supporting and encouraging each other, they would do the work more effectually. The Twelve had been so sent. (Mark 6:7.) *Before his face*. They preceded Him, to prepare the way for His coming by telling the people of Jesus and His message. *Whither he himself would come*. See on v. 3, below.

V. 2. *The harvest*. The spiritual condition of the people presented to His mind the picture of a field of grain going to waste for lack of reapers. (Compare Matt. 9:37, 38; John 4:35.) *The labourers are few*; "as yet only one expert; but He is training others, and He has faith in prayer for better men and times." (Pruce.) *The lord of the harvest*. The Father is the Husbandman (John 15:1), but Jesus and the Father are one. (John 10:30.) *Send forth labourers*. The word literally means "drive forth," a strong word implying urgency and haste.

### II. Their Instructions, 3-11.

V. 3. *Go your ways*. It is not certainly known whether they were sent through Galilee, Samaria or Perea. It was probably the last mentioned place, which was on the east side of the Jordan, and through which Jesus, having been rejected by the Samaritans (9:52, 53), passed (Mark 10:1) on His final journey to Jerusalem. (9:51.) *As lambs among wolves*; denoting simplicity and helplessness in the face of great danger from the hatred of the keen and cunning Pharisees. (Matt. 10:17-23.)

V. 4. *No purse*; no money for purchasing supplies. *No scrip*. The scrip was a leather bag or wallet for carrying food. *No shoes*; only the sandals they had on. "The shoes were of softer material than sandals, made for use in the house, always of bright colors, and frequently richly embroidered." *Salute no man*. Oriental salutations were very elaborate, and would occupy a great deal of valuable time. It was an urgent mission, and they were to lay aside everything that would interfere with their freedom in the work.

Vs. 5, 6. *Into whatsoever house, etc.* It was to be a house-to-house mission, where they might have friendly and personal intercourse with individuals. *Peace be to this house*; a courteous greeting. "A sympathetic heart is the best guide to pastoral visitation." (Bruce.) *Son of peace*; one whose heart is inclined towards the message of peace. *Your peace will rest upon it*. It would bring a blessing to those prepared to receive it. *Shall turn to you again*. The kind word is never lost. If it does not bless the one on whom it is bestowed, it will bless the giver.

V. 7. *In the same house remain*; and from it, as a centre, work in each village or town, thus avoiding jealousies and loss of time from accepting invitations, which are freely given to travellers in Oriental countries, and which often lead to personal feuds among the neighbors. *Eating and drinking*; enjoying not simply a favor but a right. *For the labourer, etc.*; because he gives value for what he gets. (1 Cor. 9:7-11.)

Vs. 8, 9. *Eat such things as are set before you*;