

I just got back from vacation. Ginni and I had bags all packed and Ginni had a list of all the things I need to take with me on vacation so we wouldn't forget anything.

- Clothes - enough for two weeks
- Hair dryer - in case they don't have one at the hotel
- Cosmetic case & toiletries - to stay looking my best
- Some shoes - for when I have to walk (sneakers/crocks/flipflops/dress shoes)
- Sandals - in case I go to the beach
- Swim suit - for the beach or the hotel swimming pool
- Camera - for sightseeing trips
- Laptop computer -so I can chek my email and surf the web
- A book - in case I get bored
- US cash, and credit cards

Can you think of any other things I may have forgotten? Sometimes I think that when I go on vacation, I am not really "getting away from it all" -- I am taking it all with me!

The Bible tells us that Jesus appointed seventy-two of his followers and sent them out, two-by-two, to go into every town and place where he was about to go. Do you know what Jesus told them to take with them? Nothing!

Jesus said to them, "Go!" "Do not even take a purse, or a bag, or a pair of sandals."

why Because when Jesus sends someone on a mission, their success or failure does not depend upon what they bring with them -- it depends on him!

That is why He said, "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

- LEAVE everything the world values
- BRING YOURSELF & MY MESSAGE "The Kingdom of God is at hand"
- **BUT** They miss the point and return raving about external signs of power
- Jesus corrects them "Don't rejoice because spirits submitted to you"

"Rejoice because your names are written in heaven"

To be close to JESUS is what is important

- We are getting ready to celebrate Independence Day
We celebrate our Independence, Liberty & Freedom
True freedom comes from forgiveness of sin (HOW? Jesus)
JC - "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven"
To be close to the Lord is what is important
What's important in life is *the internal focus of our hearts*

- Are you focused on things, the world, prestige, ...
- Are you focused on your love relationship with God
- What really motivates how you live?

Just as Jesus sent out the seventy-two people, he wants you and me to go to people today and share the good news that the kingdom of God is near.

Results do not depend upon us. We should not become puffed up when people receive the message and we should not be discouraged when they reject the message. We should just **go and tell as if everything depends on Jesus -- because it does!**