

16 He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

In the above portion of scripture Jesus sends out the seventy. He tells them to enter into the cities and preach the Word of the kingdom. If they are received, they are to give the kingdom, heal the sick. If they are rejected, they are to move on and take the message of the kingdom and therefore the actual kingdom of God, with its power, with them. They are to take it down the road and give it to someone worthy of it. The scripture declares that all should know that ***the kingdom has come near to you***. It came to their door, the gate of the city and they rejected it.

It is important to see how the kingdom comes to us and how we receive it or reject it. It comes through anointed messengers or preachers who are empowered by the Spirit of God to proclaim the good news, the message of the cross, the message of the kingdom.

1 Corinthians 1:21

*21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of **the message preached to save those who believe**.*

Luke 10:16

16 He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he

who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me.”

Christ calls His followers, His church to preach His message. Those who are sent out by Christ, to go in His place, are those who have first entered the kingdom themselves through the door that is Christ. They enter in by hearing and receiving, by believing and showing they believe by doing, by living the message of the cross. They then, in turn, now become messengers of the cross of Christ. They carry the message in His name. Christ empowers them with the Holy Spirit to take the message to others. The message is transferred. Those who hear them, hear Christ, those who hear Christ, hear the Father who sent Christ. If the messenger is received Christ is received, the Father is received and the kingdom comes in Spirit by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ's disciples or followers are fellow labours with Him in the harvest field of the world. They become conductors of the message. They transmit the power, the anointing, the Spirit, the wealth of the kingdom on to those who receive it. They in turn then become conductors of the same and the kingdom grows.

Matthew 13:31-32

*31 “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but **when it is grown** it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so*

that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.”

We hear the message and enter in to become a door or we choose to reject the message, to not enter in and shut the door for ourselves and those around us. (*See the message, “The Cross”*)

1 Corinthians 1:18

18 For the message (preaching KJV) of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

To those who reject it, it remains in their minds just a bunch of foolishness. To those who receive it, it becomes the manifest power or kingdom of God. The preaching of the cross to those who believe it, receive it, obey it and live it, becomes the means by which they lead others through the door and into the kingdom of God. The kingdom grows and multiplies according to their willingness to fully enter in and show others the way. Those who hear the message but reject it through pride, unbelief and hardness of heart, have the power to stop the growth of the kingdom. They shut the door closing it for themselves and for those they represent who would have potentially followed them in. In this way everyone becomes a gatekeeper to the kingdom of God. Whole families have been brought into the kingdom by one family member who selflessly entered and

lived to show the others the way. However, whole families have been lost as the result of one selfish man or woman who heard the message of the cross but refused to enter in. If you refuse to take up your cross to obey and follow Christ, you will shut the door against yourself and all those you know and love. Whole towns and cities are won or lost by those who open and those who shut the door to the kingdom of God and eternal life.

Matthew 23:13

*For you **shut up** the kingdom of heaven against men;*