

GOSPEL PEARLS

God's loving care

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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. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in

the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, '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.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. (Luke 10: 1-12)

Jesus defines "workers" as those who are called by Him to collaborate in His mission of preaching the Gospel by bringing the true Word of God to others. In their evangelising mission, Jesus' disciples must not worry about or allow themselves to be conditioned by material needs. This allows them to focus only on the success of their mission. Jesus, who is the best "employer" there is, will not let his "workers" go hungry when carrying out their mission. Let's be honest. So we really believe in God's loving care for us? Or are we overly preoccupied with our own material needs?