QUESTION: Why did Jesus tell His disciples not to move from house to house when He sent them out to preach the Gospel?

> *Luke 10:7*
> “Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.”

ANSWER: In Luke 10, Matthew 10, and Mark 6, Jesus provides His disciples with specific instructions on how to conduct themselves during their missionary work. These directives are part of the larger calling to spread the Gospel message, and each one carries profound theological significance.

1. The Discipline of Missionary Work

In Luke 10:1-2, Jesus appoints seventy-two disciples and sends them ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. He tells them,

> “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the

> Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

The disciples are sent to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, but they are given very specific instructions about how to approach this mission.

> *In Matthew 10:5-6, Jesus instructs His disciples,* “Do not go on the road to Gentiles, and do not enter a Samaritan city. Instead, go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

Initially, Jesus’ focus is on reaching the people of Israel, preparing them for the arrival of their Messiah. However, as the mission expands, this directive would later include the Gentiles (see Matthew 28:19, where Jesus commissions the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations).

In Mark 6:7-13, Jesus gives the disciples power over unclean spirits and instructs them to travel light, taking nothing for the journey except a staff. This teaching reflects the dependence on

God’s provision and the seriousness of their mission—ensuring that their focus remains solely on the task at hand: preaching the Kingdom of God.

2. The Command to Stay in One Place

When Jesus tells the disciples not to move from house to house, He is teaching them an important lesson about contentment and focus.

> *In Luke 10:7, He says,* “Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.”

This instruction speaks to a greater principle: that the message of the Kingdom of God should not be overshadowed by personal comforts or the temptation to search for better accommodations. Jesus’ own life was a model of simplicity and self-sacrifice.

> *In Matthew 8:20, He says,* “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

This demonstrates His willingness to live with humility, relying on the hospitality of others, and teaching His followers to do the same.

3. Theological Significance of Hospitality

Hospitality is a deeply rooted biblical principle.

> *In 1 Peter 4:9, Christians are exhorted to* “offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Jesus uses this opportunity to teach the disciples that their mission is not about seeking luxury or comfort but about remaining focused on the Gospel and the people they are ministering to. When a home welcomes them, they are to accept it as a sign of God’s provision.

> *In Luke 10:5-6, He further clarifies this by saying,* “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.”

This peace is not just a greeting but a declaration of God’s presence in that place. Staying in one house emphasizes the peace and stability that comes with remaining committed to the work, rather than moving around in search of a better situation.

4. The Danger of Seeking Better Comforts

One theological reason for not moving from house to house is the potential to foster discontentment and a lack of trust in God’s provision.

> *In Philippians 4:11-12, Paul writes,* “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation…” *By staying in one place, the disciples were learning to depend on God’s provision and to trust that He would supply their needs.*

Moving from one house to another could imply a lack of trust in God’s provision and a desire for better material circumstances, which could distract from the mission. Jesus wanted them to focus on spreading the Gospel, not on personal comfort or status.

> *Matthew 6:33 reminds us,* “But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

5. Remaining Focused on the Mission

The command not to move from house to house also teaches the importance of focus in ministry. Constantly moving would disrupt the rhythm of the mission and distract the disciples from their purpose. As noted in

> *Luke 10:4, Jesus says,* “Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.” *This instruction emphasizes the need to be single-minded in their mission and to avoid distractions.*

Just as Paul exhorts in

> *2 Timothy 4:2,* “Preach the word; be prepared in season and

> out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction,” *the disciples were to remain in one place, focusing on preaching, healing, and bringing peace, rather than seeking comfort or other distractions.*

6. God’s Provision and Timing

Jesus knew that when people opened their homes to the disciples, they were also opening their hearts to God’s work. In

> *Matthew 10:41, Jesus promises,* “Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward…” *The host’s willingness to provide hospitality was a sign of receiving God’s blessing, and staying in one place allowed the disciples to honor that relationship and acknowledge God’s provision in their ministry.*

Conclusion: The Life of Discipleship

Ultimately, Jesus’ instruction to His disciples not to move from house to house is a call to live with contentment, simplicity, and focus on the mission. It is a reminder that our journey in this life

is temporary and that our focus should remain on serving God and spreading His message rather than seeking personal comfort or security. As

> *1 Timothy 6:6-8 reminds us,* “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

The challenge for modern Christians is to adopt this same mindset: to be faithful in our mission, trust in God’s provision, and live in a way that demonstrates contentment, even in the midst of life’s uncertainties.

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