

**“TURNING A STAMPEDE INTO A POSSE”  
LESSONS FROM THE RANCH**

A farmer sowed some seed, but while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’” Matthew 13:25-30

I. What old time western posse members had in common:

- A. The right heart. (unity of \_\_\_\_\_)
- B. A common direction.... (shared \_\_\_\_\_)
- C. An uncommon commitment (\_\_\_\_\_)
- D. Travel Light (basics; no \_\_\_\_\_)

II. What the NT posse members had in common:

- A. Great \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 12:30)
- B. Great \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 28:19)

III. A Biblical posse in action! (Luke 10:1-17 selected verses)

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and *sent them two by two* ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.” He told 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. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. *Do not take a purse or bag or sandals*; and do not greet anyone on the road. When you enter a house, *first say*, ‘Peace to this house.’ ... 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... Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’

The seventy-two *returned with joy* and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” (v.17)

IV. Conclusion:

He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, *do not rejoice* that the spirits submit to you, but *rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*”

- Is your name written on the posse list of God?
- Biggest word for this posse was the smallest word: \_\_\_\_\_!

*When you review your notes from yesterday you'll see how important it is to be a part of the posse! This is the metaphor we used to talk about "being on a mission....and being in mission." Join the posse...sign up for class 101, 201, or 301!*

**Monday** -- The New Testament brings to a crescendo the Bible's symphonic theme of mission. The mission begins with Jesus who was sent to earth to reveal the Father (John 1:18; 14:9), to glorify Him (John 13:31; 14:13; 17:1, 6), to bring the kingdom of God on earth (Matthew 12:22-32), and to make God's love and mercy known to a lost world. He came to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). While Jesus' ministry was primarily for the Jews, He also met the needs of non-Jews. He healed the daughter of "a woman of Canaan" and praised the woman for her faith (Matthew 15:21-29). He also healed the servant of the Roman centurion (Matthew 8:5-13). On another occasion, He initiated a conversation with a Samaritan woman which led both to her conversion and to that of the entire community (John 4).

**Tuesday** -- Through His teachings, Jesus made it clear that His mission was to continue after He ascended. Each of the Gospels and Acts contains an account of His mandate to His followers, telling them to go to all the world, make disciples, baptize them, and preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49; John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8). Jesus assumed that the church would reach out beyond itself. This commission made a dramatic change in the emphasis of mission. Instead of looking to foreigners to come to Jerusalem as did the Old Testament, the church's mission is to go into all the world and not wait for the world to come to it. Not just selected prophets like Jonah but all the believers were to go and tell what they had seen with others.

**Wednesday** -- Since the Great Commission is a mandate, the church is expected to be obedient. Even so, it does not have to do the job alone. Christ has promised that He will be with the church until "the end of the world." With this assurance, the church was obedient, for the gospel was presented first in Jerusalem (Acts 1-8), then in Samaria (Acts 8-12) and finally to all the world (Acts 13-28). Jesus' presence would be felt through the Holy Spirit. In fact, the disciples were not to go out into the world until the Holy Spirit had come upon them (Acts 1:8).

**Thursday** -- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the church did mission by preaching Jesus (Acts 2; 8:35; 10:36-44; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2). The church's mission to the world was strengthened through its intimate fellowship and unity (Acts 2:44), and every effort was made to maintain this characteristic (Acts 6:1-7; 15; and Paul's letters to the churches in Corinth and Galatia).

**Friday** -- The apostle Paul was the hardest riding posse member. God had called him to the posse to go to the Gentiles (Acts 26:16-18; Romans 1:5; Ephesians 3:1), and he was sent out by the church in Antioch (Acts 13:1-3). The Holy Spirit led him in his ministry (Acts 16:6-10). Significantly, he identified with those with whom he worked (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Being a part of the posse was the heartbeat of the New Testament churches. I hope it is for you today and you hear the word of scripture: "Go!"