

TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

TEXT: *Ecclesiastes 4:9-10:*

⁹ Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

ILLUSTRATION

A certain minister was in the habit of wearing both a belt and suspenders for his trousers. He was asked whether he lacked faith. He proceeded then to quote the above verse in Ecclesiastes as his authority.

THERE ARE TWO VERY IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES HERE

The first reason is a preventative to backsliding, as we see in our text above.

The second reason is that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. Jesus quotes this verse in:

Deuteronomy 17:6: At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.



Also in:

Deuteronomy 19:15: One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

GOD GAVE THESE PRINCIPLES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.

- **Moses and Aaron**
- **Caleb and Joshua**

- David and Jonathan
- The two olive trees

Zechariah 4:3: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of bowl, and the other on the left side thereof.

JOHN THE BAPTIST FOLLOWED THIS RULE

MATTHEW 11:2: Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples.

JESUS USED THIS PRINCIPLE IN SENDING FORTH:

HIS DISCIPLES

Mark 6:7: And He called unto Him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

THE SEVENTY

Luke 10:1: After these things, the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come.

TWO DISCIPLES IN PREPARATION OF THE PASSOVER

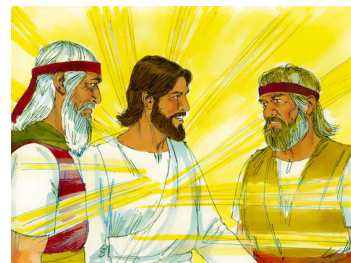
Mark 11:1 And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He [Jesus] sendeth forth two of His disciples,

Luke 19:29: And it came to pass, when He was come nigh to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount called the Mount of Olives, He sent forth two of His disciples,

GOD USED THIS PRINCIPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

The Mount of Transfiguration — Moses and Elijah — two witnesses — were present.

Matthew 17:3: And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with Him [Jesus].



The Empty Tomb

Luke 24:4: And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed

thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.

The Mount of Olives after Jesus' ascension and the two angels

Acts 1:10-11:

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward Heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven.



THIS RULE WAS FOLLOWED BY THE EARLY CHURCH

Peter and John

Acts 3:1: Now Peter and John went up together into the Temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 8:14: Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Paul and Barnabas

Acts 13:2: As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Paul and Silas

Acts 16:19: And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers.

The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3: And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophecy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Deuteronomy 32:30a: How shall one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight?

Matthew 18:19: Again I [Jesus] say unto you, "That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven.

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