

The Sending of the Twelve
Mark 6:6b-13, 30-32
April 21, 2013

Introduction

Mark introduces to us a major shift in Jesus' ministry. Before this point, Jesus had been doing it all by Himself...preaching, teaching, healing. He had gathered massive crowds of followers...many false, and some true. Jesus is in His third and final tour of Galilee—the time to the cross is not far away. He knows that He does not have much time, and there is still much work to do. He knows He cannot do it all Himself, so He sends out the Twelve to do the surrounding countryside and have them experience the ministry work.

The Apostles have been with Jesus 24/7 for some time and they have heard all that Jesus has taught, day after day, week after week, and month after month. They are familiar with His message—He taught the people the same story in different settings, calling people to repentance and salvation. He preached about the Kingdom of God. When it was time, Jesus selected the Twelve and sent them out. Luke records that there were Seventy sent out (which could equate the 70 elders under Moses), and these men had the same powers as the Apostles, but their power was only temporary; whereas, the Apostles had the power permanently.

Note: Disciple = learner and Apostle = sent ones. This is the time when they are transitioning from being learners into preachers

The Apostles, as we recall, are not from the religious establishment. They were ordinary men with ordinary jobs, yet our Lord calls them to be the leaders and teachers of the church. To this day, we are continually taught by the Apostles.

Ephesians 2:20 *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

Here we see the marks of effective ministry that our Lord has established. Let us learn from Him as we consider how to apply this to our lives and ministry.

Mark 6:6-13 *Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷Calling the Twelve to Him, He sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. ⁸These were His instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. ¹⁰Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." ¹²They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. ³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. ³¹Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." ³²So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.*

I. The Apostles Proclaimed Salvation (12)

- He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God (**Luke 9:2**)
- Proclaim = preach
 - They went out publically to preach the gospel
 - They were doing the same thing as Jesus did

Mark 1:14-15 *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵"The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

Mark 1:38-39 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-to the nearby villages-so I can preach here also. That is why I have come." ³⁹So He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

- They preached that people should repent
- They were sent to the lost sheep of Israel (**Matthew 10:6**)

Note: This is not the complete message because the cross and resurrection has not occurred yet. They proclaimed of repentance, of judgment, of the kingdom of God, and of Jesus Christ the Messiah. It was not until after the resurrection that the message became full.

Acts 2:22-24 Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a Man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.

Acts 2:36-38 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." ³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 3:12-16 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus. You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned Him before Pilate, though he had decided to let Him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

Acts 4:8-10 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, ¹⁰then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Nothing has changed. The message remains: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and repent of your sins.

II. The Apostles Have Delegated Authority

- They drove out many demons
 - Luke says that they had the power over **all** demons (**9:1**)
- They healed the sick
 - They used oil to anoint them?

- Why?
- Oil was symbol in OT as the presence of God
- They acknowledged that they did not have the power to heal within themselves
- Their power was from God alone
- They raised the dead (**Matthew 10:8**)
- They had power just as Jesus did

2 Corinthians 12:12 *The things that mark an apostle—signs, wonders and miracles—were done among you with great perseverance.*

Hebrews 2:1-4 *We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.*

- They were given power to authenticate their authority and message
- There are no apostles today

III. The Apostles Lived Dependently on God

Note: When Jesus tells them to carry no money and extra items, He was in effect telling them to trust God in His provision. When the Apostles were with Jesus, He had provided for their needs. When they were with Him, they were fine. He is telling them that when He is not there with them, they will also be fine.

- They carry no money
 - They were not to carry any money, nor were they to receive any money
 - They were not to be bought or bribed
 - They were to freely heal, raise the dead and cast out demons

Matthew 10:8b *Freely you have received, freely give.*

- Why?
- False teachers are only in for the money
- They did not carry extra items
 - No extra staff
 - No bread (or food)
 - No extra shirts
 - No extra shoes (**Matthew 10:10**)
 - What you have on is what you will use
- This is not a vow of poverty!

Luke 22:35-36 *Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered. ³⁶He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.*

- In other words—plan, prepare, and accept what God has provided

IV. The Apostles Were to Exercise Discernment

- You will experience rejection
- Their message is not a happy "God has a plan for your life" message

- They were to preach that all Israelites were sinners and they needed to repent
- If people did not listen—then leave do not stay around

Matthew 7:6 *Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.*

- Shake dust from their feet
 - Jewish way of expressing scorn to the Gentiles
 - When they arrive border of Israel, they shake off the dust of Gentiles before entering land
 - Judgment against those who reject the message

Matthew 10:15 *I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.*

V. The Apostles Were Obedient

- It is amazing that the disciples were obedient by actually doing what Jesus said!

Matthew 10:16-25 *I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. [This is supposed to be encouraging? Jesus is telling like it is. There is no sugarcoating with our Lord.]*

¹⁸*On My account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. [This is certainly realistically graphic.]*

²³*When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. ²⁴A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!*

Note: This is such a high cost for us being His disciple. Yet we go where He leads us to go—into danger all for the sake of the gospel being proclaimed in the farthest reaches of the earth.

VI. The Apostles Were Accountable

- They went out two-by-two
- In Acts, that is what we see them doing
- For protection, support, and witness
- When they come back, they tell the Lord everything that had happened to them

Conclusion

When they return, this is a beautiful picture of our Lord! He is not a brutal taskmaster with a precise schedule in hand that we must complete. He allows us to rest and refresh before continuing. In fact, this is our God! He gives us rest when we need them.