

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 8, 2017

The First Commission
Mark 6:7-13

I. Summoned and sent (6:7)

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

-Jesus had been ministering solo for over a year primarily in Galilee

-This is after two preaching tours

-Preaching plainly like the Sermon on the Mount

-Preaching in parables

-Now it was time to use the disciples in order to have them send the message

-**Matthew 9:36-37** “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;’”

-They would learn from their mission and spread the message

-It was Jesus’ intention for the twelve to be sent

-**Mark 3:14-15** “And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach 15 and have authority to cast out demons.”

- “two by two” could be for safety or because of the necessity of two witnesses as established in the Law

-**Deuteronomy 19:15** “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.”

-Notice Jesus’ Deity in sharing and delegating His miraculous abilities to others

-Christ’s calling on their lives would see the disciples sent out again and for good at the end of Christ’s time on earth (Matthew 28:19-20)

-The church’s calling demands that we proclaim Christ

-**1 Peter 2:9** “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

II. Leaving with little (6:8-9)

8 He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— 9 but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics.

-Jesus gives specific instructions for their belongings in their going

-Minimal amount of material in their going

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- “take nothing for their journey except a staff”
- “no bread, no bag, no money in their belts”
- “sandals and not put on two tunics”
- Why?
 - Force the 12 to rely upon God
 - They were to remain focused on preaching the message, not the everyday cares of the world
 - The future ministry of the apostles would demand reliance upon God
- Is there a “staff” contradiction with other gospels?
 - “He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff” (Mark 6:8)
 - Matthew 10:9-10 “Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, 10 no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food.”
 - Luke 9:3 “And he said to them, ‘Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.’”
 - It appears that in Mark’s account he emphasizes the one staff or walking stick that the disciples would take with them
 - In Matthew and Luke’s account, they are emphasizing that Jesus did not want His disciples to acquire or bring an extra or second staff
- Do these specific commands still apply to the church in our going today?
 - These were specific commands to specific people for a specific time
 - Luke 22:35** “And he said to them, ‘When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?’ They said, ‘Nothing.’”
- We too must trust God in our going to the world so that we do not get caught up in the cares of the world
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-8** “But godliness with contentment is great gain, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”

III. Reception or rejection (6:10-11)

10 And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. 11 And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”

- Two options disciples can expect: Received or rejected
 - Some places will receive the message of good news
 - If so, specific instructions...
 - “stay there until you depart from there”
 - Jesus is telling apostles to stay in the same house as long as they were in the town

- This house was not a careless decision
- Matthew 10:11** “And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart.”
- Jesus did not want the apostles to jump from house to house so as to take advantage of everyone like many traveling teachers of the time did
- Some places will reject the message of good news
 - It was amazing for Nazareth to reject Jesus
 - We too have the expectation of rejection when we tell others about Christ
- If so, Jesus gives instructions...
 - It will also be amazing for the towns of Israel to reject apostles’ message confirmed through miracles
- Jesus gives the proper response to rejection
 - “shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them”
 - Luke 10:12 indicates shaking the dust off of feet as a pronouncement against the town when comparing the town to Sodom or Gomorrah
 - Appears to be a Jewish practice when leaving a Gentile/pagan town indicating separation
 - Imagine average Jewish men shaking the Jewish dust off of their shoes!
 - This is a strong message to the Jewish towns!
 - Their rejection of the disciples and the message would indict them
- We too ought not to throw our pearls before swine
 - Matthew 7:6** “Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.”
 - At some point, we limit our efforts in bringing the gospel to the hostile in order to bring the gospel to others
 - This does not mean that we stop praying for people, no matter how hostile

IV. Preaching and performing (6:12-13)

12 So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

- The apostles had a message to proclaim
 - Message was a message of repentance
 - This was the same message as John the Baptist

- Mark 1:4** “John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”
- This was also the same message as Jesus
 - Mark 1:14-15** “Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”
- Reminder:
 - Kingdom of God was present in the sense that the King Himself was near
- Repentance:
 - Not just actions of penance but true internal change
 - Joel 2:12-13** “‘Yet even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the LORD your God,”
 - Not just emotions but legitimate guilt or remorse over sins
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10** “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”
 - Not just intellectual in acknowledging your offense of a holy God
 - Luke 3:8-9** “Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”
 - “Repentance means that you realize that you are a guilty, vile sinner in the presence of God, that you deserve the wrath and punishment of God, that you are hell-bound. It means that you begin to realize that this thing called sin is in you, that you long to get rid of it, and that you turn your back on it in every shape and form. You renounce the world whatever the cost, the world in its mind and outlook as well as its practice, and you deny yourself, and take up the cross and go after Christ. Your nearest and dearest, and the whole world, may call you a fool, or say you have religious mania. You may have to suffer financially, but it makes no difference. That is repentance.” (Martyn Lloyd-Jones, quoted by John MacArthur in *The Gospel According to Jesus*)
 - “Where there is no observable difference in conduct, there can be no confidence that repentance has taken place.” (*Gospel According to Jesus*, John MacArthur)
- We too have a message of repentance to proclaim

-Luke 24:46-47 “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.”

-They also performed miracles to verify their identification with Jesus and His ministry

-As in Jesus’ ministry, so also in their ministry, the miracles validated the message

-The apostles had Jesus’ message and Jesus’ authority to preach through the miracles

- “They anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them”

-Oil was used medicinally in biblical times to soften bruises or wounds (Isa 1:6; Luke 10:34)

-However, this passage is talking about supernatural healings

-The oil did not cause the healings, God did

-Oil functioned as a visible demonstration that healing was taking place