

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

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Sends

Scripture Passage: Mark 6:7-13,30-32

The Point: Jesus commissions His followers to point others to Him.

I. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- A. This session's focus is on Jesus' sending out His disciples on a gospel mission.
- B. The study emphasizes that God wants all believers to participate in taking the good news of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.
- C. The worldwide gospel advance continues the mission that Jesus began with His first disciples.
- D. Jesus appointed twelve of His disciples to be apostles, a word that means "sent-out ones".
 - 1. For a time these select men traveled with Jesus and observed as He taught healed the sick, cast out evil spirits, and exercised authority over the forces of nature.
 - 2. Jesus was preparing them to go on mission in His name.
 - 3. The time had come for them to put into practice what they had learned and received from Jesus.

II. SENT BY JESUS (Mark 6:7)

- A. "summoned" = describes Jesus' decision to move the apostles to the next level in their discipleship.
- B. The time had come for the apostles to go on short-term ministry ventures in His name.
- C. "began to send them out" = may have been a staggered or strategic approach to sending them out but regardless they did not initiate these ministry excursions on their own. They went out at their Master's command and in His name.
- D. "in pairs" = able to accomplish more and cover more communities, also no one was alone, strengthen and accountability.
- E. "gave them authority" = His power.
- F. "unclean spirits" = spiritual warfare against various manifestations of evil: disease, demon possession, unbelief, and hypocrisy, as well as those that would oppose them.
- G. The apostles would only be victorious if they served with the spiritual authority Jesus gave them.

III. EQUIPPED BY JESUS (Mark 6:8-11)

- A. As Jesus sent His apostles on ministry assignments, He told them to carry minimal provisions (vv.8-9).
 - 1. Jesus wanted His apostles to trust explicitly in God's protection and provision as they went out in His name and under His authority.
- B. Extending hospitality to needy travelers was a hallmark of many ancient Near Eastern cultures (v.10).

1. They were not to move from house to house.
- C. Their mission was to preach the gospel of the kingdom and prepare for Jesus' future arrival (v.11).
 1. They were to proclaim the good news, not engage in arguments with skeptics who rejected them.
 2. "any place" = the village not the homes where they stayed.
 3. "shake the dust off" = common way of expressing separation, time to move on.
- D. Obeying Jesus' call to serve others in His name does not guarantee that we will be treated well in every place.
- E. We can be confident, however, that He will be with us through the Spirit and will provide everything we need to do His work.

IV. **EMPOWERED BY JESUS (Mark 6:12-13)**

- A. They did not question why they could not take provisions, they did not question where they were sent, they simply obeyed (v.12).
- B. Repentance necessitates a change of attitude that results in a transformation of behavior.
- C. Because of Christ's power they were able to cast out demons and heal the sick (v.13).

V. **RESTING WITH JESUS (Mark 6:30-32)**

- A. They came back together and reported on all that had happened as well as what they had preached (v.30).
- B. Ministry is exhausting and they needed time to rest and recover (v.31).
- C. "they went away" = does not carry a sense of urgency, it suggests the group moved steadily yet slowly toward their objective (v.32).

VI. **CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

- A. Jesus expects all His followers to be a part of His ministry.
- B. We can trust Jesus to provide for the needs of those He sends to do His work.
- C. Jesus empowers His followers to preach and act in His name.
- D. Those whom Jesus calls to serve He also calls to rest and renewal.
- E. Teaching Ideas
 1. Create Interest
 - a. Ask the group to discuss what they think of when they hear of a "grassroots movement".
 2. Closing Challenge
 - a. Ask each person to think about where and to whom they could deliver the message of the Gospel.
- F. Don't Forget!!!
 1. Sends & Mark 6:7-13,30-32
 2. Jesus commissions His followers to point others to Him.

Dr. Smith serves as the lead state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and leads the Sunday School, Small Groups, Discipleship and Faith Development ministries. Visit their website at gabaptist.org/groups for more information and other resources to aid your class, group or ministry. You can also connect with Dr. Smith at facebook.com/GABaptistGroups. Dr. Smith is available for conferences or other speaking opportunities and can be contacted at tsmith@gabaptist.org.