Hello Walt, here is the sermon notes for the next sermon which I should begin on Sunday, October 11

Introduction

The Disciples' Mission; Mark 6:7-13

6b Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. 7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

8 These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. 9 Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. 10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. 11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

The Rejection at Jesus' Hometown Synagogue did not Hinder the Mission for Long.

In fact, it may have given Impetus to the Commissioning of the Twelve for their First Assignment.

This was why Jesus had Chosen the "Twelve" in Chapter 3.

Since that Point, they were Preparing for their Own Mission.

In Chapter 4, Jesus taught about the Nature of God's Reign, Providing Private Instruction for them.

In Chapter 5, Jesus performed Liberating Acts for them to Witness.

Just before Jesus sent them out, the Mission Experienced an Unexpected Rejection. It was a signal of what was to be expected in their work.

(verse 11 "And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.").

Only in Mark does Jesus Command the Disciples to take a Staff and Sandals.

This may imply the Length of their Journey.

Their Dependence on Hosts would be an Important in their Strategy.

Also, there are Two other Significant features in Mark.

- First, they were to Continue their Mission in Households they Visited.

This was to be Anticipated in light of Jesus' Own Successful Activity in the Homes surrounding Galilee.

Jesus' Message and Activity in the Synagogues had been Growing Less Fruitful, including this Latest Rejection.

The Synagogues, with Established Religious Traditions were Not Always Susceptible to New Ideas and Activities that may have Represented a New Move of God!

So, Jesus was Preparing his Disciples for Potential Rejection.

But wherever Rejection Existed, so would Judgment: They were to "shake off the dust that is on your feet" (6:11).

Even still, according to this account, their Mission was Successful.

While the Disciples were Clueless in Several Earlier Stories, they Apparently Understood Enough to Carry Out this Mission Effectively.

- Second, while Continuing Jesus' Message of "Repentance", their use of "Oil" was New and Distinctive.

No provisions of this kind were mentioned in Jesus' earlier words.

One of the most Amazing Features of the Gospels, and of the Ministry of Jesus, is the men He Chose to be His disciples.

If you and I were putting together a Ministry Team, these are Probably Not the kind of people we would Choose to Represent us.

Consider these Men for a Moment.

Several were Fishermen. One was a Former Tax Collector for Rome. A couple of them were Quick Tempered. One of them was a Revolutionary. One was a Traitor and Not a True Believer at all.

All were very Common Men.These men lacked Spiritual Understanding. They lacked Humility. They lacked Faith. They lacked Commitment. They lacked Power.

These men were always Getting into Trouble; Missing the Point or Christ's Teachings; Lashing out at People who were Different; Saying the Wrong Thing; Walking Away from their Commitment to Jesus; Among other Failures and Problems.

In Spite of their Weaknesses, Jesus used these men to Turn the World Upside Down for His Glory.

For some time now, they have been Following Jesus from Place to Place.

They have been Listening to Him Teach and Watching Him Perform Miracles.

Since Jesus Called them, they have "Been in Seminary".

Jesus has been Training Them so that He could Send Them Out with the Message of the Gospel.

The Text before us today gives us the Details of Jesus Commissioning of His Disciples for their First Missionary Outreach.

This Passage has Something to Teach those who are Servants of the Lord.

It has something to say to those who Desire to Serve the Lord in these days.

Just as Jesus had a Mission for the Original Twelve Disciples, He still has a Mission for You.

So in this Text we have The Mission, The Mandate, The Message, and the Ministry of the 12.

1. The Mission of the Twelve

7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

A. First, They were Sent Out "two by two".

1) How would you have liked to have been Judas Iscariot's partner?

B. There are a Couple of Reasons Jesus Sent Them Out This Way.

1) It fulfilled the requirements of the Law for every testimony to be established by the words of at least two witnesses.

2) It provided the men with companionship, encouragement and for someone to pray for them.

3) This was the method used by John the Baptist when he sent out his followers.

4) This has been the method followed by Christians since the days of Jesus. The early church employed this method.

5) It is still the best method today. When two people go out to share the Gospel together, they can encourage one another, pray for one another and help one another stand in this evil day.

When you go out to tell this world about Jesus take a fellow believer with you, it will make the job easier.

C. We are Told that Jesus gave them "Power".

1) This particular word refers to "inherent power".

2) It has the idea of someone "possessing the right to do a thing and having the power to carry it out."

3) Jesus gave them His power when He sent them out.

4) In a literal sense, they were an extension of Him as they ministered around the country.

5) Jesus literally multiplied Himself when He sent His disciples out with His power.

6) In John 14:12 Jesus made a startling statement. He said,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do because I go unto my Father."

7) The only reason we are able to see Him do this is because He gives us His power to serve Him in the world today.

8) When Jesus saves a soul, He gives them the power to carry His message to the world, Acts 1:8.

9) We may feel inadequate for the task, but His power rests in us and on us.

10) We may be weak in our words and we may feel that our testimony lacks power, but Jesus has promised to give us His power.

11) And His power is more than enough to get the job done!

Therefore, we can go into this world and share the Gospel, knowing that He has called us and empowered us to do just that!

2. The Mandate of the Twelve

A. As Part of Jesus Commissioning the Twelve, He gave them some Very Specific Commands.

8 These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. 9 Wear sandals but not an extra shirt.

1) They were told to take nothing with them for their journey.
   - They could take a walking stick, the shoes on their feet and the clothes on their backs.
   - They were not to take a scrip, which was a travelers bag.
   - Nor were they to take any money or food.
2) There are a couple of thoughts here that need to be considered.
   - There is the idea here is that they were to go as they were,

B. That is still God's Plan for His People.

1) We are saved by faith and the Lord expects us to live by faith!
2) Jesus wants us today to walk in complete dependence on Him and to rely on His power to supply our needs.
3) If Jesus sends us out in His service, we can trust that He will take care of us.

C. There are Several Parallels of this with the Exodus Story.

1) Jesus' instructions to the twelve sound very much like God's instructions regarding the Passover lamb:

"This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste" (Exodus 12:11).

2) The requirement that the twelve not carry bread is reminiscent of God's instructions to the Israelites regarding manna.

3) They were to trust that God would provide daily manna, gathering only an omer of manna per person each day and not keeping any of it overnight (Exodus 16:16-19).

D. But we are Not to be Foolish with our Resources.

1) Just because Jesus will meet our needs does not imply that we are to give away everything we have.

2) We should give when the Lord tells us to, but we are also commanded to be good stewards of that which we have been given by the Lord.

3) If we squander everything the Lord gives us, we might have to do without when the hard times come.

4) Sometimes, the Lord allows us to save during the days of prosperity so that we will have resources during the days of adversity.

E. There are 2 Timeless Principles that we Do Not want to Miss Here.

1) Always be a wise steward of the wealth God blesses you with.
2) Always trust the Lord to take care of you.

F. There is also the Idea of Urgency here with the Disciples.

1) Jesus wants them to go now!
2) The fields are ready for harvest and it was time to go.

G. There is Still an Urgency that comes with the Gospel Message Today.

1) The time to tell the world is today.
2) The time to go is right now.
3) If the Lord has it on your heart to tell an individual about Him, the time to do that is today.

H. They were Told to take Only One Coat.

1) In that day it was usually just the rich who could afford two coats.
2) Jesus was sending them out as common men among common men.
3) They were not to put on airs and come across as though they were better than the people they encountered.

I. They were Accept the Hospitality of the Local People and they were to Abide in Whatever House they were Invited into.

1) They were not to seek out better accommodations.
2) They were not to look for more comfortable lodging.
3) They were to take what they were given and they were to be happy with it.

J. When the Disciples entered a Village and Their Message was Rejected, they were to Leave that Village and Shake the Dust off their Sandals.

1) Before they crossed back into Israel, they would shake the dust off their clothes and off their shoes.
2) In this case, Jesus told His disciples to do this as a sign that those who rejected the Gospel would face a harsh judgment someday.
3) In fact, their punishment would exceed the judgment that fell on ancient Sodom and Gomorrah.
4) Why? All Sodom and Gomorrah had was the testimony of a wayward believer named Lot.
5) These villages had the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ!
6) They would face a harsh judgment for rejecting Jesus' offer of salvation.
7) The primary message of the disciples was a message of hope and salvation.
8) However, those who rejected the offer of salvation were given a message of judgment and damnation.

K. No One Likes That Message Today.

1) We are ridiculed for preaching that there is a literal place called Hell where lost souls suffer for eternity.
2) They will accuse us of being out of step with this modern world.
3) They will mock our pleas for them to turn from their sins and come to Jesus.
4) Let them say what they will, but the truth still stands!
5) There is a Heaven to gain and Hell to shun.
6) The only way into Heaven is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

7) The only way to avoid Hell is through the Lord Jesus Christ.
8) That is our testimony!
9) It is a testimony of deliverance to those who receive it. It is a testimony of damnation to those who reject it!

3. The Message of the Twelve

A. The Message of the Twelve was a Simple, Straightforward Message.

1) It was a message that could be understood by all who heard it.

B. They Preached that Men should "Repent".

1) That word means "to change one's mind for better, to amend of one's past sins".
2) It refers to "a change of mind that leads to a change of action."
3) It can literally mean "be converted".
4) When genuine repentance takes place the change in a person's life it is radical and powerful!
5) Most of the time repentance is only preached in its negative sense.
6) People are told that they need to stop doing certain things, and that is true.
7) Repentance is far more that that!

C. Repentance has Both a Negative Aspect and a Positive Aspect.

1) Repentance looks backward, but it also looks forward.
2) Repentance says, "I will stop doing the things I should not do and I will begin to do the things I should do.
3) I will stop living a life of sin and I will start to live a life of holiness."

D. Repentance arises out of a Heart that is Sorry for the Wrongs it is Guilty of Committing, (2 Cor. 7:10).

1) That sorrow produces a desire to change the way the repenting sinner is living.
2) That is genuine biblical repentance and it is something that we do not see a lot of in these days!

E. There are Not Many Voices Calling for Repentance in these days.

1) Most people do not like to be told that they are wrong and need to change their lives.
2) But the blessings of God will never come until you repent of your sins!
3) You will never have assurance of your salvation until you repent of your sins.
4) In fact, if you refuse to repent of you sins, you are probably not saved to begin with!
5) One of the characteristics of the new birth is a changed life, (2 Cor. 5:17).
6) If you can live in sin, without seeing the need to turn from it and repent, most likely you are not saved by the grace of God, (1 John 3:9).

F. Let me make it as Plain as I can Today.

1) The message has not changed!
2) The Lord still commands sinners to repent of their sins if they want to be saved from their sins, (Acts 17:30).
3) That truth applies to both you and me.
4) It applies to every person in the world.
5) Repentance is an essential prerequisite for a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

4. The Ministry of the Twelve

A. God Confirms His Work in us through in Powerful Ways.

1) He will manifest His power as He confirms His message.

B. But we will Probably Not See the Same Things these Men Saw.

1) What the Lord did through them is what is known as sign gifts.
2) That is, they were manifestations of His power designed to give validity to His message.
3) In that day people did not have the complete Word of God.
4) They needed proof of the message.
5) God proved His message by working powerful, clear miracles among the people.

C. In Our Day, we see the Lord Confirm His Word by Changing Lives.

1) When the Gospel is preached and shared in His power, He will use the Gospel message to draw people to Himself.
2) The greatest miracle the Lord can achieve is the salvation of a human soul.
3) It so far outweighs healings and the casting out of demons that they are not even in the same category!

D. When Jesus Saves a Soul, it Eclipses even His Power in Creation.

1) In Genesis 1, God made everything out of nothing.
2) But now He can take a lost, a hell bound sinner and make them into a child of God is marvelous beyond words!
3) This is personal redemption of us, who were made in His image in the beginning
4) To consider that God would love the lost and reach out to them in grace is amazing.
5) To think that Jesus would die on the cross to redeem us from our sins is wonderful beyond belief!

5. Conclusion

A. Jesus Christ is in the Life-Changing, Soul-Saving Business!

1) And One amazing aspect of this is that He desires us to have a part in His ministry.
2) When we personally hear His call, when we personally accept His commission,when we walk in faith and share His message with a lost and dying world,
we can expect Him to honor His Word as in Isaiah 55:11, and to save the lost.

B. Here is Christ's Invitation to You Today.

1) If you are saved and sense the Lord calling you to share your faith, you need to respond.
2) If He is calling you to serve Him, then you need to heed that call and go where He sends you.
3) If you are saved and you have been holding back out of fear of failure or that your needs would might not be met, let go of those fears today.
4) You need to Submit to His calling on your life and commit to doing what He has called you to do.
5) If you have made a profession the past, but your life has never changed and you are still controlled by your sins, come to Christ today and get it settled once and for all.

-

• • •