

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 6
STUDY TWO

KINGDOM STRATEGY— MULTIPLYING MINISTRY

MARK 6:7-12

**THE MOMENT THERE ARE MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE IN MINISTRY, I'VE LOST
CONTROL AND AM IN NEED OF HELP.**

—PASTOR DALE

BACKGROUND

Jesus comes to the point in His earthly ministry where he is the one who has been doing all the teaching about the kingdom and the miraculous works that accompanied him. Chapter six represents the turning point to employ the strategy of kingdom building that will be a model for the church age. This is the first time the 12 disciples are divinely commissioned and officially recognized as a group.

The term apostle means sent out which is what Jesus does to represent him and the kingdom of God. He sends them out two by two. This is something that would have been apart of Jewish culture that Jesus is using not only for mutual help and encouragement but it was the legal requirement for any testimony, Deuteronomy 19:15. See also Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Luke 10:1, Acts 13:2, 19:22.

This new strategy of multiplication comes with a test of trust. Jesus specifically tells them what and what not to take. A staff which would provide protection against robbers, wild animals. No bag for any food or snacks. Sandals to protect their feet but only one tunic. Tunics were the standard clothing of the day and men of means would have had two. By taking only one the disciples would have been seen as more common folk. This to would have also played into the minds of the people with respect to having hospitality to strangers, Exodus 22:21, Deuteronomy 23:7, Zechariah 7:10. Finally, they were not to take any money.

This would have reinforced the teaching to not lay up for yourself treasures on earth but also to pursue the mission without any entanglements, Matthew 6:19, Hebrews 12:1. One other important issue; with the power over demons, death, and disease it would be a large temptation to use those gifts to make a great deal of money, which would have more than hindered the message of the kingdom. This would have led to questioning the motive behind Jesus teaching. Something very different in our day of those who purport to have such power and have used that to become very wealthy, false teachers all.

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you've spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as seek I you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. **Kingdom Strategy** Jesus employs a strategy to grow the kingdom by empower others to carry on the mission.
2. **Spiritual Test.** The command to take virtually nothing but the clothes on their back was to put them in a position to trust and not doubt God's provision.
3. **Kingdom Consequence.** When the Kingdom of God shows up it brings with it salvation or judgement.

OBSERVATIONS:

Take your time and thoughtfully read Mark 6:7-12 Matthew 13:53-58 and Luke 4:16-30. Record any additional observations below that the Spirit has given you that you may have missed from last weeks study.

MULTIPLYING MINISTRY
MARK 6:7-12

OBSERVATION:

Jesus places a specific calling on twelve men. What was the task given to them?

As they went out preaching the kingdom of God what did Jesus give them to verify that the people should listen to them?

Why were they sent two by two?

What were they to learn by not being allowed to take any supplies with them?

Consider the list of things they were not to take. How does the world view and value those things?

If they were received they were to stay in one house till they left that town. Why?

What is Jesus anticipating will happen in vs 11? Why does this not deter them from going?

INTERPRETATIONS:

God's Calling is Specific. We are not Apostles called to leave everything behind to do what they did. However we as followers of Christ have a calling. What do you believe is yours? How does the Word of God verify that calling?

The Testing of Faith will Come. Jesus gave them specific instructions on what not to take on their journey. Trusting in the provisions God will give means that God is sovereign over all areas of life down to the smallest needs. The test is for each believer is to encourage and build up their faith so as they will see that it is real—James 1:1-3. Tests are not forever they are but for a moment. See Luke 22:35-38 and compare that with what Jesus is say in Mark 6.

Jesus is the Cornerstone and the Stumbling Block. There are but two types of people in the world, lost and found, slave and free, children of God or children of Satan. Telling people that they need to repent creates the line in the sand as to which they belong. See Joshua 24:14-14

The Two Point Message of the Kingdom. Our lives as Christians should never lose sight of the message of the gospel. It was not enough just for the apostles to be nice and do good things to heal and help people in need. The message had to be preached. People had to hear in order for faith to take root. What can we do to keep the testimony of our lives and speaking the message of repentance linked together?

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Jesus took three years to instill and educate his disciples so that they in turn would go out living and proclaiming the kingdom of God. How can you apply this model to your life to advance the gospel?

We don't take off our shoes anymore but what if anything do we or should we do to those who oppose the message? How prepared are you to encounter resistance to faith in Jesus Christ?

When the message of your life's testimony in Christ is shared what typically is the underlying expectation you have? What happens to your faith and/or thoughts and emotions when it doesn't turn out like you believed?

When things just are going as planned, when you have committed your life to glorifying God in all you do, have you ever doubted that God loved you or cared for you? Why or why not?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Ask the Lord for opportunities for gospel conversations and a heart to sow the gospel seeds liberally in your life. Write down a name of someone you know and begin praying that their heart would be receptive to that conversation.