

## Mark 6:7-13 – Jesus Sends Out The Apostles

### Leader's Guide

March 24, 2019

- 1. Read Mark 6:7-13 to familiarize yourself with the passage. What quality of a faithful minister was most surprising to you? What is one thing you learned that you can apply to your Christian life?**

#### Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

<sup>7</sup> And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> And he said to them, “**Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there.**” <sup>11</sup> **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.**” <sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

- 2. Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs. Read the following texts. (Acts 13:2-3; 15:39-41, Ecclesiastes 4:10, Mark 14:13, Revelation 11:3) What advantages are there when people serve Christ in pairs? How can we apply this pairing principle to life in the church, on the mission field, and in pastoral work today? What insights does the pairing principle provide for accountability and motivation?**

*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13:2-3 (ESV)*

- The Holy Spirit chose to send Barnabas and Saul on their missionary trip in pairs. Sending missionaries in pairs was not just Jesus’ idea. It was also inspired by the Holy Spirit.

*And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. Acts 15:39-41 (ESV)*

- Even when Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement, when they parted ways they still had another Christian missionary with them!

*For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Ecclesiastes 4:10 (ESV)*

- We need each other when times are tough for help and encouragement.

*And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, Mark 14:13 (ESV)*

- Even when Jesus sent his apostles to find the upper room, he didn't send just one apostle, but two!

*And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." Revelation 11:3 (ESV)*

- When God sends his witnesses in Revelation, he sends a pair, not just one.

### ***What advantages are there when people serve Christ in pairs?***

- There is encouragement, accountability, doubling of gifts, ability to work together, friendship and emotional support.

### ***How can we apply this pairing principle to life in the church, on the mission field, and in pastoral work today?***

- When it comes to leadership in the church, work as a team, not in isolation.
- Always have someone with you to train your replacement.
- On the mission field, don't allow missionaries to become isolated and alone.
- Don't allow pastors to work isolated. They need friendship and encouragement. It is important for them to develop friendships with other pastors.

### ***What insights does the pairing principle provide for accountability and motivation?***

- When people work in pairs, it keeps them from falling behind because they are accountable to one another. It also keeps people motivated. As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

**3. In Mark 6:8-9, we see God intentionally sent his disciples on their short-term mission trip without supplies. He wanted them to face a season of scarcity so they could experience God provide for their daily needs. What do these verses teach us about God's promise to meet our needs to accomplish his will? (2 Corinthians 1:8-10, 2 Timothy 4:14-18, 2 Timothy 3:11, Matthew 6:30, Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 5:7)**

*For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (ESV)*

- Paul remembers that just as God delivered him from hard times in the past, he will deliver him from hard times in the future.

*Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:14-18 (ESV)*

- Paul is confident that just as God rescued him from every evil deed planned against him in his early life, God will also be able to rescue him from death and bring him safely home to heaven.

*my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 2 Timothy 3:11 (ESV)*

- God's rescue of Paul's life in the past becomes Paul's confidence that God will rescue him in the present.

*But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Matthew 6:30 (ESV)*

- If God provides for the grass, he will most certainly provide for our needs.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6 (ESV)*

- When life gets stressful, don't be filled with anxiety. Give your worries to God in prayer knowing he promises to care for your needs.

*...casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)*

- Give your worries to God in prayer knowing he cares for you.

**4. In Mark 6:10, Jesus challenged his disciples to be content with the home and provision God provided rather than using their ministry gifts to build their financial portfolio. What do these verses teach us about godly contentment? (Ecclesiastes 5:18, Luke 9:4;10:7-8, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Philippians 4:11-13)**

*Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Ecclesiastes 5:18 (ESV)*

- God wants us to focus on being content with what we have and enjoying where God places us.

*And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart.... And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Luke 9:4; 10:7-8 (ESV)*

- Jesus wants his apostles to stay content in the house they stay in when they arrive in a community. Don't use ministry success as a ladder to climb for financial success.

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)*

- Be content with what you have in life knowing you have the one thing that is really valuable, which is Jesus for all eternity.

*But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 (ESV)*

- Remember we won't take anything with us when we leave this world. Our relationship with Christ is what matters.

*Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13 (ESV)*

- Focusing on what we have in Christ is the secret to contentment in this life.