

Following Jesus
23, Send-off
Mark 6:7-13

I. Message

a. **Jesus commanded the 12 to accomplish a mission of compassion together – v.7,13**

- i. “7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;”
- ii. He sent them out 2 by 2
 1. Small detail, but an important point
 2. It’s a blessing to have support in ministry
 - a. To do ministry TOGETHER
 - b. Jesus knew these men would need each other
- iii. He sent them out with power to help others
 1. For them, the power was specifically over unclean spirits
 2. And in v. 13, to heal sickness
 - a. We now refer to this time as the apostolic period
 - b. This power was their credentials
 - i. It legitimized them – **2 Corinthians 12:12**
 - ii. But these were a specific kind of sign and wonder
 1. These signs could have been anything
 2. But they were specific symbols of **compassion**
 - iii. The nature of this power would change soon – **Acts 1:8**

b. **Jesus expected the 12 to trust Him for provision – v.8-9**

- i. “8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip (bag), no bread, no money in their purse: 9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.”
- ii. They were told to take no provisions, except the bare necessities
 1. But this was a not a “vow of poverty”
 2. In fact, in Luke, when they returned, Jesus asked them point blank: “Did you lack anything or did I provide it through my people?”
 3. “Everything was provided!”
 4. This was a mission of trust

c. **Jesus expected the 12 to be received by some, rejected by others – v.10-11**

- i. 10 And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. 11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It

shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city. “

- ii. They were to stay with believers
- iii. They were to give unbelievers an opportunity, but not worry about rejection
- iv. But this has been and always will be the nature of the invitation to Jesus
 - 1. In fact, in the parable of the sower, only 25% of the seeds bore fruit
 - 2. MOST will not

d. Jesus expected the primary message of the 12 to be repentance - v.12

- i. “12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.”
- ii. Once they had accepted the mission, the message was clear
 - 1. They did not fully understand the full gospel yet
 - 2. They didn’t have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - 3. They had absolutely no authority from the religious establishment
 - 4. They had no connections, they had no training.
 - 5. **They just did what they were told.**
 - a. **“Go proclaim salvation while manifesting compassion”**
 - b. Paul would later say it this way: **Ephesians 4:15 “But speaking the truth in love...”**

II. Conclusions (we can learn some general principles from the 12 and **their** mission)

- a. How this relates to Great Commission in general (THE mission)
 - i. All Christians have a mission of compassion to accomplish together
 - 1. Great commission – **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - a. We often summarize it this way around here:
 - b. Your mission: advance the priorities of Jesus
 - c. Make disciples that mature to the point of making disciples)
 - i. We encourage this
 - ii. Through church, small group, discipleship
 - ii. We too should be trusting the Master’s provision for the mission
 - 1. For our church
 - 2. For our family
 - 3. **Philippians 4:11-13**
- iii. We too can expect to be received and rejected
 - 1. Jesus said not to be surprised if the world hates the message (and the messenger) in Jesus’ name
 - 2. **John 15:18-19**

- iv. We too are to preach a primary message of repentance
 - 1. You can't have gospel salvation without repentance
 - 2. **2 Peter 3:9**

- b. How this relates to supporting our missionaries specifically (this week's mission) – in relation to THEIR mission, and THE mission
 - i. **The Harrises have a job to do (together with the rest of us)**
 - 1. One of our jobs this week is to hold them accountable – are they doing what they say they are doing (Great commission)
 - 2. But it also to hold ourselves accountable
 - 3. We go to encourage them that they are not alone
 - a. Fellowship of ministry
 - b. **2 Corinthians 8:3-4**
 - ii. **The Harrises depend on the provision of the church**
 - 1. Our missionaries depend on our faithful giving
 - 2. Our team depended on your faithful support (which you have)
 - 3. Are you getting involved personally?
 - 4. How about as a church?
 - a. **1 Corinthians 9:14**
 - b. They depend on God's provision through the church
 - iii. **The Harrises are not universally loved and accepted**
 - 1. They are sometimes rejected
 - 2. They are often lonely
 - 3. **Matthew 10:40-42** “He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. 41 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”
 - a. I want in on what our missionaries are doing!
 - b. We need to remind them to stay faithful even when rejected
 - iv. **The Harrises preach the same message we do**
 - 1. The message of our missionaries
 - 2. Is the same as our message to our neighbors
 - 3. Repent and trust Christ!
 - a. **John 3:16**
 - b. Bible definition of believe (2 things)
 - i. Repent and trust Christ
 - ii. Simple, but easy for us to cloud up with other things