

Daily Bible Study

“All The King’s Men ~ Clothed With Authority”

Mark 6:7-13

June 6 - 12, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – As we continue on in our study of the Gospel of Mark we take for our text, **Mark 6:7-13** as we look at a lesson entitled “*All The King’s Men ~ Clothed With Authority*”. Last time we saw in **Mark 6:1-6** that Jesus was rejected in His hometown as the people were blinded and hardened in unbelief. This was so much the case that Jesus we are told *marveled because of their unbelief*. So many times when human beings are rejected they give up, concede defeat, and that is the end of their story and mission. This is not the case with Jesus however. We read in the last phrase of **Mark 6:6** that this is not the case with Christ. We did not spend time discussing this phrase last time as it actually leads us to and connects us with the next portion of the text. The phrase reads *...Then He went about the villages in a circuit teaching*. We see in these short ten words that Jesus models and practices the principles for us that He is about to teach to His disciples in our text which follows. Instead of giving up and quitting, we will see that Jesus continues and actually steps up His efforts of evangelism in the face of hostility and rejection. Furthermore, not only does He personally go out and work, He sends out His men on their mission as well. We are told specifically what His men did on their mission; *preach that people should repent; cast out many demons, and healed many who were sick*. Before we move on and look at some particulars it would be good for us to be reminded of some things from the previous six verses. Namely, that we saw the “familiarity breeds contempt” scenario from the people of Nazareth and by their sin, they deprived themselves of an incredible opportunity as Jesus chose to take His life giving teaching and blessings elsewhere. We need to take heed how we hear and also ask God to help us believe even when circumstances and temptations try our faith. Tragically and sinfully, even as Christians we can become bitter and too familiar with the Words of Life and the very Lord of Life Himself. May God help us that this will never be the case. Let’s read the entire text as we begin this weeks study: **Mark 6:7-13** “*And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts— but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics. Also He said to them, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.*”

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to protect you from the sin of unbelief and stir up a fervent desire for Jesus in your heart, mind, and life. And ask Him for tenacity and fortitude like Jesus exemplified when it comes to spiritual disciplines, working and serving Him.

TUESDAY – **Mark 6:7** “*And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.*” We have previously seen in **Mark 3:13-19** that Jesus sovereignly selected His twelve apostles. Now we will see that He gives them their public commission if you will along with their instructions. From the phrase *began to send them out* we can learn a couple of things. First and most importantly we find the word *send* is the Greek *apostello* which means “to order (one) to go to a place appointed”. This verb contains the same root word as does the word *apostle*. It emphasizes the sovereign selection we spoke of from **Mark 3:14** as well as links Jesus with these men as it is He who orders them or appoints them to go. What is absolutely clear is the fact that they are going forth from Jesus as His personal representatives. This is how we are to go out in this world in which we live each and every day; as if Jesus Himself was sending us out the door which in reality, He is. The other thing to note is that some scholars see in the phrase *began to send them out* that they were now going out on a preliminary venture if you will a mission to the lost sheep of the house of Israel as the parallel passage in **Matthew 10:6** puts it. Matthew also makes known that Jesus made apparent that their mission was to the Jew as He tells them to *not go into the way of the Gentiles and not enter a city of the Samaritans*. This would be reinforced from Paul’s letter to the Romans; namely **Romans 1:16**. Jesus then follows up this with the command to preach the gospel message to the whole world (Gentiles as well) in **Mark 16:16** or **Luke 24:47**. These *twelve* Jesus *called to Himself* and He *sent them out* clothed with His authority. This is made clear to us in that He *gave them power over unclean spirits*. Jesus imparts to these men *exousia*, the “power of authority, liberty of doing as one pleases, ability, strength, and right of privilege”. This word *exousia* is also found in **John 1:12** as there we see that as believers in Christ Jesus we are given the right of privilege as well as the ability or power to *become the sons of God*. What a privilege and grace for us Beloved! May we never become too familiar with this either. So our text now informs us the twelve are given *power over unclean spirits*. We must remember that we as God’s children have also been given the power we need; namely The Holy Spirit which enables us to fight sin, live holy, and face whatever circumstances God sees fit to bring into our lives that will magnify His strength and ability and bring Him glory. And although we understand the victory and power of the indwelling Spirit as well as the fact that *greater is He that is in us than He that is in the world*, Jesus still sent these men out *two by two*. They needed to encourage one another as well as provide a complete and full testimony as established by the two witness principle of Sacred Scripture (**Deuteronomy 17:6**).

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me understand that You send me out each & every day with the good news of You & Your gospel to the lost. Help me go shine Your holy, loving light in this dark, sinful, selfish world. Thanks for giving me Your power as well.

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 6:8 - 9** “*He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts— but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.*” Here we are given much more than a mere “packing list”. We are taught some great principles about trusting God for provision. Jesus informs them they are to take basically only necessities and not a lot of them on their mission. God will provide for His men. The Geneva Study Bible (1557-NT, 1560-Complete Bible) gives a wonderful piece of commentary on this

opening phrase *He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except...* It says, “Faithful pastors should not have their minds set even on things that are necessary for this life, if they might be a hindrance unto them, even if it is just a small hindrance.” The principle and lesson is not focused merely on pastors or the apostles in our text but for all of us as believers who are ALL commanded and sent forth to bare witness of Jesus. Although this is not primarily a packing list Jesus did give one as He told them to take *a staff—no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts— but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics*. Again, the parallel passage in **Matthew 10:10** reminds us that although they were to bring no copper in their money belts still the fact remains *that a worker is worthy of his food*. The principle is carried on in Holy Scripture in many places (**Deuteronomy 25:4, 1 Corinthians 9:7,14**) most familiar to most is where Paul tells Timothy that in God’s church ministers are to be supported (**1 Timothy 5:18**). Jesus is stating the principle that the obligation to provide for those who bring the good news rests on those who receive and hear the teaching. The list of things to bring along would not only put the Apostles in a position to trust God but would also help them relate to the common man. For instance, they were not coming in some elaborate, wealthy clothing such as *two tunics* since in that day *two tunics* were a sign or symbol of wealth. They were not going out “putting on airs” like they were better than those they were bringing the message to; the only difference was they had experienced God’s saving grace (Judas-common grace). Lord willing, we’ll “unpack” this “packing list” more this Lord’s Day, and discuss the discrepancies found among the synoptic gospel writers on the issue.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, teach me to rely upon You and Your promise to provide for my needs. Keep me humble with an ever present understanding of Your grace to me.

THURSDAY – Mark 6:10-11 “Also He said to them, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!” We see that the apostles were to decide at what home they were to stay at when they entered a town to minister. **Matthew 10:11** gives us the criteria they were to use in making their decision. “Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.” They were not to inquire *who was worthy* to receive the gospel message for all of us a sinful men are unworthy and wicked (**Romans 3:9-23**) but they were to inquire who was *worthy* (willing and ready) to entertain them as strangers traveling without money, etc... Again we see the duty of the hearers or receivers to extend hospitality emphasized. We as Christians today need to remember this principle well and seek to be hospitable and gracious to those in need and those that come to us just as Scripture commands (**Romans 12:13, Hebrews 3:12**). We also learn from this that the apostles themselves or the ones who are being shown the hospitality are to be cooperative and not “fussy” but content in their provisions. This is what Jesus is saying when He tells them not to depart from that place. Jesus is teaching that if the folks are desirous to serve and are doing so don’t run from place to place looking for better because something (food, facilities, etc...) isn’t quite to your liking. What lessons we can learn from this instruction concerning our own contentment? Scripture is quite clear on the matter of contentment (**Hebrews 13:5, 1**

Timothy 6:6) and how unlike Jesus it is to disdain someone who is extending grace and service. Jesus then deals with the matter of running in to unworthy individuals and homes which are described as those who *will not receive you nor hear you*. Like the Jews shook the dust off their feet before re-entering the Holy Land when traveling Jesus tells the men to do this as a sign against their unbelief and unclean condition. This was a public declaration of Divine displeasure; God's displeasure being on them who have refused to even hear His gospel. God's wrath we are told in Scripture *remains* on them who do not believe in Jesus Christ (**John 3:36**). Remember these men like all true messengers of Jesus are sent by God Himself and God does not take lightly Him or His people being treated wrongly. Just remember Beloved, God has told us to love, forgive, bless, and pray for our enemies and He will take care of the business of retribution (**Romans 12:19**).

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me be content understanding this massive truth that You have forgiven me. What else would I possibly need when I have You and Your glorious Salvation? Help me to be kind, gracious and show hospitality as well.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 6:12-13 “*So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.*” We find that the men Jesus *sent out* got right after it in obedience to Jesus. You can listen to the Words of Jesus all day long but you are not obedient until you do them. Spiritual maturity can be defined by the single word obedience. They obeyed; they went and *preached*, Greek *kerusso* “to be a herald, to proclaim after the manner of a herald”. They were not shy about speaking out the message of the Gospel. They announced the good news to those who would listen and moved on from those who didn't as per Jesus instruction. Not only were they *preaching* but they were having success in demonstrating Jesus power over Satan and His enemies in the casting out of *many demons*. We remember that they were not always this successful as **Mark 9:18** explains. They also *anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them*. Oil of various kinds (often olive oil) was used extensively in Biblical times. It was used medicinally as well as in cooking and many other things. Scripture uses oil as a symbol of The Holy Spirit and His power (**Zechariah 4:1-6**) and it could be possible that the apostles were telling the people by using this oil to anoint them to “look to God's Holy Spirit and power to be healed and do not look at us we are just the instruments He is using”. We know that the people were being miraculously healed and nowhere do we see mere olive oil or any other oil for that matter bring instant and Divine healing in and of itself. So the oil seems to symbolize the presence and power of The Holy Spirit. It is interesting that we see this language concerning the *oil* in what is quite possibly the earliest letter in the New Testament canon, **James 5:13-18**. People were *sick* they were lost in sin and in their own strength would have remained that way. But Jesus through His grace, compassion and power saved and *healed* many of them; He brings forgiveness to the sinner, light to the blind, health to the sick and strength to the weak.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for saving and healing me. Help me to be faithful to obey You and give me the strength to do so. You are a wonderful Savior!