

**WHO ARE YOU SENT TO ?**

In Luke 9:1-9, Jesus confers His own power and authority on His twelve apostles, as He sends them out for the preaching of the gospel and for healing. And He gives specific instructions. Matthew 10 and Mark 6 are the parallel passages on this short-term mission.

**APOSTOLIC PATTERN** - As Jesus sent them out, He also set them apart. He said, "*Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.*" But Matthew 10 says to acquire no sandals on the way, and Mark 6 says to take a staff.

Scholars resolve this by noting they were to leave just as they were, with no knapsack, no extra provisions or resources. They were not to stop at Casey's or Walmart for anything, but to simply go, immediately, and trust God to provide for all their needs.

Later in Luke 22:35-36 Jesus asked them if they lacked anything on this excursion, and they answered "*nothing.*" But for their next assignment, after His ascension, Jesus gave different specific instructions, so they would be prepared for their long-term mission.

**PROPHET NOT PROFIT** - In Luke 9, they were to travel light, "because this short-term mission was marked by a sense of urgency," notes RC Sproul, "and they were to learn to trust in God for everything they need and do."

RK Hughes observes, "this apostolic approach contrasted with false missionaries of the ancient world who made personal profit from preaching." Contrast this with the heretics and false prophets of our own day, with their constant appeals for money along with their counterfeit claims of power and authority.

**A PILGRIM'S LIFE** - In Luke 9, Jesus says "*whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.*" Mark 10 explains they were to stay with those who repented and received the gospel, for they would provide the needs of the apostles.

"Comfort-seekers have never done anything for Christ and His kingdom. A committed life is an uncomfortable life, often inconvenient, putting itself out for others," notes Hughes. Shaking off the dust from pagan travels was a practice of pious Jews. But for Jesus' apostles, this was a dramatically gracious message," relates Hughes, "a prophetic act to make the Jews think deeply about their rejection of Christ."

Perhaps a parallel for us today is for believers and churches not to emulate the world in our lives or our worship, but rather to stand in contrast to a sinful society and worldly values. We are to present the good news of Christ's kingdom, who delivers people from darkness to light.

**APOSTOLIC PRODUCTS** - What was the outcome of their mission? Luke says, "*they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.*" Mark says "*so they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.*" God's power was at work through them!

All this attracted official attention. Herod the tetrarch, ruler over Galilee, heard about this and was perplexed. People said it was Elijah, or one of the prophets of old, or John the Baptist whom he had beheaded. So who was this Jesus? So Herod sought to see Jesus. His interest was not in repentance, but in preventing threats to his reign. (Herod did meet Jesus, in Luke 23:6-16).

**PERSONAL APPOINTMENT** - The accomplishments of the apostles were amazing because they were just ordinary people. But they were empowered by the Holy Spirit for extraordinary results. What about you? You cannot be an Apostle in the same sense as the twelve, but all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have been called and sent out by Him to bear witness.

2Corinthians 5:15-20 says that believers are to live not for ourselves but for Him who died and was raised for us, because "*anyone in Christ is a new creation, reconciled to God through Christ, and given the ministry of reconciliation, as ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you, on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*"

This is a great sense of urgency, just like Luke 9. Jesus has sent YOU out. Who are you imploring to be reconciled to God by receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? ☐