

FROM DISCIPLES TO APOSTLES

--MARK 6:7-13--

INTRODUCTION:

As we enter into our passage of Scripture we coming to a turning point in the ministry of the Lord Jesus. Up to this point in His ministry, only Jesus has preached the gospel message, only Jesus has healed diseases and performed miracles, and only Jesus has confronted the hard-hearted unbelief of the religious leaders. That is all about to change as He commissions the twelve disciples to be His apostles and to go out and preach the gospel in Galilee. When reading in the New Testament we often read about disciples and apostles, and we tend to think that the words are synonyms They are not synonyms. A disciple is a learner, a student. An apostle is one who is commissioned by his Master with the Master's own authority, then sent out in the Master's name. Up to this point these Twelve had not been set apart from the larger group of disciples for specific service. But the time has come for their ministries to begin. Within this passage we find five characteristics they were commissioned to carry out as apostles.

- I. COMMISSIONED TO PREACH SALVATION (Mark 6:7a)
 - a. After Jesus left His unbelieving hometown, He began to make a tour of the villages, towns, and cities of Galilee proclaiming the _____ of the kingdom. (Deuteronomy 19:15)
 - b. In the parallel passage in Luke 9, Luke in verse 2 gives us the _____ for which Jesus sent them out.
 - c. Returning to Mark, he states in verse 12 that "*They went out and _____ that men should repent.*" (Mark 6:12, NASB95)
- II. COMMISSIONED TO SHOW COMPASSION (Mark 6:7b)
 - a. As Jesus commissioned His apostles to go out and preach the gospel, He gave them _____ over the unclean spirits. (Matthew 10:8; Hebrews 2:3-4)
 - b. The nature of this miraculous power also demonstrated the _____ and loving-kindness of God.

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- III. COMMISSIONED TO DEPEND ON GOD (Mark 6:8-9)
- As Jesus continued to commission His apostles for ministry, He next commissioned them to _____ on God alone. (Exodus 12:11)
 - Jesus instructed the disciples to take nothing for their journey, except a mere _____.
 - Jesus used this to teach the twelve the vital importance of _____ in God's faithfulness and seeing Him provide.
 - The stipulations that Jesus gave for this first ministry experience were only _____. (Luke 22:35-37)

- IV. COMMISSIONED TO BE CONTENT (Mark 6:10)
- The next characteristic that Jesus wanted His disciples to exhibit was _____.
 - After they accepted an _____, they were to decline all others, by doing this they would distinguish themselves from the traveling false teachers. (1st Timothy 6:6-10)
 - The _____ Jesus wanted the Twelve to learn was that they were to possess contentment. (Matthew 10:8-9)

- V. COMMISSIONED TO BE DISCERNING (Mark 6:11)
- As Jesus was finishing His commissioning of the Twelve, he explained to them how they should respond to those who would _____ them. (Matthew 10:15)
 - Jesus knew that the apostles would be _____ the same way that He had been treated and He had to prepare them.
 - When Jesus had preached the Sermon on the Mount, He explained this _____ as recorded for us in Matthew 7:6.

- VI. OBEDIENTLY FULFILLING THEIR COMMISSION (Mark 6:12-13)
- They went out and _____ fulfilled their commission.
 - Mark wrote that the apostles "*were anointing with oil many sick people and _____ them.*" (Mark 6:13b, NASB95)

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CONCLUSION:

As we will learn next week, Mark interrupts his narrative to focus on Herod's treatment of John the Baptist. Then later in the chapter he returns to the narrative we have just looked at with the apostles returning from their ministries in the towns and villages of Galilee, and they return to report to Jesus all that they had done and taught. As you think about this, knowing that you have received a commission from the Lord, a commission that He spoke to the disciples just before He ascended into heaven. Matthew 28:18-20 records this commission, "*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'*" (Matthew 28:18–20, NASB95) As you think about this commission that you have received as one of God's children through your repentance and faith in God's Son, the Lord Jesus are you looking forward to being gathered to the Lord Jesus and report all that you have done and taught to fulfill the commission He has given you. We are not given the authority and power that was given to the apostles, but each of the five things that Jesus commissioned the disciples with can be characteristics that we should strive for as we live for the Lord. We can strive to faithfully share the good news of salvation, as we do, we can show compassion, we can fully depend on God to use us and supply us with all we need to serve Him. We can be content where God has placed us, but at the same time we need to be discerning and recognize when someone has rejected the gospel and move on. By incorporating these characteristics into our lives, we will be able to obediently fulfill the commission given to us by the Lord Jesus.

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