

Mark 6:7-13

“Discovering the Master through ministry”

- I. **Introduction**
- II. **Vs. 7-9 No special equipment**
- III. **Vs. 10-11 Not going to get but to give**
- IV. **Vs. 12-13 No Statistics**

I. **Introduction**

The story we are looking at this morning of the first outreach led by the disciples and is found in 3 of the 4 gospels. From their appointment to be His disciples until now they have been with Jesus in training for about 1 year. During that year they knew that they were being prepared to be sent away from Jesus to do His work. They had observed Him; His methods, His words, His authority and power. They had taken note of not only His ability over every human affliction but the compassion in which He handled each and every person as they were the single most important person He had ever met. They had witnessed how he dealt with crowds, and opposition. They were present during the two visits to Jesus' home village of Nazareth where His work was paralyzed by unbelief. The time had now come for them to be His apostles sent away, His ambassadors, saying the things He had been saying, doing the things He had been doing. Before we look at the text this morning I want us to skip ahead to verses 30-32 where Mark tells us how the first mission experience went. It is very revealing by what we **DON'T FIND: *There is no specifics given in the report, no details of where they had gone, what people had they had encountered or specific victories won in His name.*** In fact, none of the gospels including Mark say anything other than what we are told in verse 12 that they “*told Him*

ALL THINGS, both what they had done and what they had taught. *What seems to have caught the attention of Peter when he communicated this to Mark was **NOT** what they had done and said while they were out but rather the care of Christ for them on their return!* This may be the single most important point of their time away from the Master doing ministry: *As wonderful as it is to fulfill our calling in service it pales in comparison of being in His presence and experiencing His personal love and care for us!* I suggest to you that this may very well be the purpose and goal of our service. Only a few days earlier after their experience on the Sea of Galilee they had asked “*Who can this be?*” The passage before us is driven by the disciple’s continual exploration of that question. This passage gives some very important principals in ministry that still need to be exercised today.

II. Vs. 7-9 No special equipment

Vs. 7 The first four principals of ministry as it relates to the question asked by the disciples, “*Who can this be?*” is found in verse 7:

1. Vs. 7a “*He called the twelve to Himself*”: **Ministry is first and foremost about discovering Who Jesus is!** I can’t help but notice that Jesus’ first move in sending them out was to “*calling them to Himself*”. What we learn by Jesus sending the 12 out is that you can **best** find the answer of who Jesus is in **SERVING** rather than in the common method in most churches, **SITTING**. There is a place for observation in discovery but to truly learn you will need to lace up your sandals and get to work. Jesus was a strong proponent of O.T.J.T., “*On the job training*”. **Jesus was communicating that through service they would encounter Him in away that merely sitting and watching with Him would never be able to reveal!** We followers of Christ were never designed to be **spectators** instead we were called to be **participants**. Saints if you are not “*Growing the antidote is you will need to get up and get GOING!*”
2. Vs. 7b “*and began to send them out two by two*”: The word “*send*” here is the same word where we get our English word “*apostle*” from. It means a person sent out on a special commission to represent another, accomplishing His work and purpose on His behalf. Solomon wrote in Ecc.4:9 “*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.*” **Ministry is done in unity with others not in isolation.** Our discovery is a group activity as Jesus paired up the 12. Although we

are not told who Jesus paired together in Mark's account you will find it in Matthew's account of 10:1-42 there we read that Peter and his brother Andrew were placed together, John and his brother James were together, Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew, James and Thaddaeus and lastly we have the odd pairing of Simon the Zealot with Judas Iscariot. What's amazing in the last pairing is they also received power and authority in the name of Jesus to do His work. This fact reveals that just because a work is done in the name of Jesus, under His authority and even accomplishes what it is suppose to doesn't necessarily legitimize the instrument that has been used.

3. Vs. 7c "*gave them power*": **Ministry primarily is about connection with Jesus and His power.** The words "*gave them power*" in the Greek is in the imperfect tense which means that He "*kept on giving them power*" through out the mission He sent on. The word for "*power*" is a word that means "*delegated authority*". These 12 possessed the authority to command demons to leave and lives to be restored in God's power who had commissioned them. I am not saying that these 12 didn't have given attributes and talents to go along with education and life experiences, what I am saying is that their effectiveness was about connection to Jesus power and all the above traits. The quicker we understand this and the more reliant upon this the more effective we become in what He has called us too.
4. Vs. 7d "*over unclean spirits*": Based upon verse 13 we know the ministry wasn't exclusively geared to power and authority over "*unclean spirits*" but Mark specifically mentions this one element in the 7th verse. This was something that caused the disciples particular amazement upon their return in Luke 10:17 as they mention that "*even the demons are subject to us in Your name*". Another great principal about ministry is: **When we are doing what Jesus has called us to do, in His power NOTHING is difficult.** There is polarity in ministry as it relates to Jesus: John 15:5 "*Apart from Jesus we can do nothing*" and Philippians 4:13 "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*". **As long as we are on the Philippians 4:13 side of the equation we have nothing to fear!** They learned that "*This Jesus*" had no equal and there was nothing they could ever encounter outside of His power and authority. This power and authority is *provisional* because it is a given as opposed to Jesus *universal* power and authority. What confidence we can have over any and every entrenched evil or stronghold when we are acting upon His given authority.

Now we look at another principal in verse 8-9

5. Vs. 8-9 "*He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff..*" He told them that they already had everything they needed for the job and they wouldn't need "*special equipment*". They didn't need "*extra baggage*" that would slow them down and cause unwanted delays. **Jesus wanted them to operate in the balance of having what they needed for the task but still having to trust Him for their needs!** It seems to me that **the principal that Jesus is teaching His disciples is that their greatest provision is total dependency upon Him.** Total dependency is not opposed to planning and provisions and in fact they can be a sign that you are totally dependent, what we need the most in ministry is simple, JESUS! Lack of preparation is never a sign of inspiration but it very well may be a sign of in subornation!

III. Vs. 10-11 Not going to get but to give

Hospitality was a sacred duty in the Eastern culture. It was never the responsibility of the stranger to seek it out but the duty of the village to offer it. So Jesus told them that if any village should refuse hospitality towards them than they should treat them as if they were a gentile house and not have fellowship with them.

6. Vs. 10-11 *“In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place....”* Any stranger could expect to be taken care of and entertained when they came into a town or village, there were no hotels in those days, so Jesus tells them that they were to utilize cultural hospitality as a means as a place to stay but **the difference was that were going to give more than they were to receive.** Clothed in His power and authority they were to stay and be a blessing for the time they were in the village. They were not to be beggars, or solicitors seeking funds for their mission. They were going out to GIVE, not to GET! **The principal they were to learn is that if they are out in Jesus’ power and authority, ministry is about giving and not getting and only then is it worthy of support!** They were instructed when leaving a village, they didn’t receive them they were to leave in a way that expressed sorrow by shaking the dust off their feet, indicating that this village would not receive the blessings that they had been sent to give. Rabbinical law required that when a man entered the temple courts he must take off staff, sandals and money belt and it appears that Jesus was suggesting that their entrance into the simple homes of villagers should be treated with such reverence as they would approach the temple.

IV. Vs. 12-13 No Statistics

The meaning of these words in the Greek doesn’t mean that they proclaimed or told people to repent but rather that they preached in such away that it produced repentance.

7. Vs. 12 *“So they went out and preached that people should repent.”* Jesus told them that as them went from village to village they would encounter two different groups: Those that would offer hospitality and those that would offer hostility, those that they would consider friends and those that would consider them as enemies and they were to minister and be a blessing to both! They were to stay at the house that offered them hospitality and be their servants and not expect to be the households pampered guests. **The last principal they learned about Jesus was that His message and method was about truth and transformation.** They had been sent in His power and authority to bless the village and the blessing was that they can only experience the blessings of God by turning away from the things that hindered them receiving the blessings. It is the “Goodness of God that leads to repentance”. People will never let

go of the life they have until they become convinced that it is keeping them from enjoying something far better. That was the message Jesus wanted them to convey to the villages they were sent too. That is always the problem with sin, it keeps us from experiencing and enjoying the gifts God so desires to lavish upon us!

Vs. 13 I again notice that *no stats were taken, no numbers were recorded on how many saved, how many delivered from demons or how many healed from various diseases.*

Success was not to be measured by numbers but rather in obedience to which was seen in that Jesus received all glory and honor.