

Series: Gospel of Mark # 21
"Faithful Kingdom Ministry" Pt. 1
Mark 6:7-13
6-25-17 Sun PM

Here we have a turning point in our Lord's ministry. Before He had done all the teaching, healing, and miracles. Now He authorized the twelve apostles and commissioned them to go out.

They were given the supernatural ability to heal, perform miracles, preach the gospel and cast out demons.

2 Cor. 12:12, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

We are not apostles! Remember the criteria- accompanied Jesus on His earthly ministry, seen the resurrected Lord, performed signs and wonders, and commissioned directly by the Lord.

But we can learn broader principles about how to be faithful ministers in the day we live in. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Q- What are the marks of faithful kingdom ministry?

I. Faithful Ministers Proclaim the Gospel (6:7a).

Jesus had trained the disciples and now sends them out to take the gospel message to other places. Note here that he "began to send them."

Jesus did not send them out all at once but staggered their send off. He sent them out in pairs. Why?

1. Mutual support and protection.
2. To strengthen their capability.
3. To ensure that their message was confirmed by two witnesses.

Luke 9:2, "He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal."

The word "proclaim" refers to authoritative, public pronouncement of important information by a herald or forerunner. So they went from village to village publicly preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Gospel means "good news" that sinners could be reconciled to God by grace through faith in Christ alone. They could enter into the blessing, hope, and salvation of His kingdom.

v. 12- They included repentance in their message. One must turn from sin and believe the gospel.

Acts 3:19, Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Act 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commanded all men everywhere to repent:

“Repentance” means to think differently and act differently. One recognizes their bankrupt spiritual condition crying out to God for mercy embracing Jesus as the only way to be saved.

Transition- *So the faithful minister accurately and urgently proclaims the good news of salvation to the lost. To preach anything else, compromises our calling and the gospel.*

I. Faithful Ministers Proclaim the Gospel (6:7a).

II. Faithful Ministers Show Compassion (6:7b).

Note v. 7b- He gave them power over unclean Spirits [demons] and Matthew and Mark says they were given authority to heal the sick and raise the dead.

They were given supernatural power to perform the signs of an apostle. These validated or authenticated their message and ministry.

The apostolic gifts, through a man, no longer exist today because of the end of the apostolic era and completion of the canon of Scripture. I did not say God does not still heal today! He heals through the prayers of the saints, not a faith healer (See James 5:14-15).

Heb. 2:3-4, How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; (4) God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

The modern day principle is that the faithful kingdom minister is to have compassion. Jesus and the apostles relieved human suffering by their miracles. The Twelve followed his example of tenderness and compassion.

We should share the attitude of the apostle Paul and have divine compassion to those we witness to and minister to.

1 Thess. 2:5-8, For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness: (6) Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. (7) But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

(8) So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

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Next week we share the remaining 4 marks.