

Series: Gospel of Mark # 22
"Faithful Kingdom Ministry" Pt. 2
Mark 6:7-13
7-2-17 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.

We are not apostles! But we can learn broader principles about how to be faithful ministers in the Kingdom.

Q- What are the marks of faithful kingdom ministry?

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

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

III. Faithful Ministers Depend on God (vs. 8-9).

Q- They were to take a staff? Possibly a walking stick in the rocky terrain and for protection against robbers and wild animals. Jesus issued open carry.

They were to take what they already had in their possession- the staff, clothes on their back and sandals on their feet.

1. They were to be ready to go and leave at a moment's notice.
2. They were to depend on the Lord to provide their needs. He wanted to teach them to trust God's faithfulness and see how he provides.

Matt. 6:31-33, Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. (33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

This call was not a call to a life of poverty but to be temporary. Jesus explains this event in the upper room later.

Luke 22:35-37, "And he said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything? And they said, Nothing. (36) Then said he unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. (37) For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

1. Jesus infers here that they were to plan and prepare for the future.
2. We must ultimately depend on the Lord to provide.
3. This was the lesson Jesus wanted them to learn on this occasion.

Q- If God were to call you to be a foreign missionary or Pastor, how much stuff would you be willing to depart with and how long would it take you to liquidate your stuff?

Q- What God called you to meet a need of a family member or friend, would you be

willing to do it and depart with a possession?

Q- Do you travel light in this world? Do you love your possessions and this world more than you love Jesus?

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

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

III. Faithful Ministers Depend on God (vs. 8-9).

IV. Faithful Ministers are Content (6:10).

In those days people stayed in people's homes as they traveled because Inns were dangerous places. He told them to stay there till they leave town.

One Bible teacher said that having their apostolic gifts they probably were in great demand and afforded an upgrade.

They were not to move from house to house receiving money from everybody. They were to stay in one place and be content with having their needs met there at that location.

This is what separated them from false teachers. I told you about the missionary who I had booked several years ago and he called me one week before he was to come. These are his exact words, "I have an opportunity to go to a bigger church."

I told him he told me everything I needed to know about his heart.

Matt. 10:8-9, "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (8) Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. (9) Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, (10) Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.

They were not to put a price on their ministry. They were not to exploit people for personal gain.

The lesson for the twelve and us is this. Depend on God and be content with your circumstances.

Phil. 4:11-13, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. (12) I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

What have we learned so far about being a faithful kingdom minister?