Exegetical Notes, Mark 6:7-13 "Sending Them Out"

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Mark 6:7-13

Verse 7

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits..

- Jesus traveled from place to place most within the area of Galilee.
- At this particular moment, he decided that it was time for the Apostles to try doing what he did. So he sent them out in two-man teams to travel as he had been traveling, to do what he had been doing.
- He even gave them authority, like his authority, so that they could deal with evil spirits.

Verse 8-11

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

- Jesus tells his disciples not to take extra provisions for their trips. They are to be totally dependent upon God. He will be their source and their supply. The implication is that they are to go where God takes them, knowing that he will provide, trusting him.
- If the place to which they go will not hear their message they are to move on, shaking the dust from their feet. In Jesus' day, this was a sign of contempt. It was a way of saying that you would have nothing more to do with these people, their fate was now their own responsibility because they had rejected you and your help.

Verse 12-13

They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them..

• The Apostles went out at Jesus' command and preached the good news. They drove out evil spirits and they anointed the sick for healing.

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