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How Jesus Extended His Ministry

Mark 6:7-13

INTRODUCTION

Jesus began His ministry with 'come spend time with Me,' then He said 'follow Me,' and now He begins a new phase of this ministry in which He says 'go out from Me in my name.'

It strikes me as a very natural way for us to walk with God. First in getting to know Him, then in active following and eventually in going out to minister to others as He sends us.

I. He Sent Out His DISCIPLES

A. Before He Sent He Summoned

1. particular people: Mk 3:16 "the twelve"
 - a. echoes of the past – 12 tribes of Jacob/Israel speaking of the totality of God's chosen people
2. particular purpose: Mk 3:13-15
 - a. be with Him (3:14)
 - b. have authority (3:14, 6:7)
 - c. be sent out to preach (mk 3:14, 6:12) "that men should repent" (mk 6:12). Remember that the call to repent is not limited to a turning from sin, but more broadly turning from not recognizing Jesus as the King of the Kingdom of God, to recognizing Him as such. Mark 1:14 says that Jesus was preaching the gospel of God and verse 15 shows what that gospel is: the time is fulfilled in His coming; the KOG is at hand, people should repent and believe.

Trans. – Having spent time with Jesus getting to know Him, His heart for mankind, His ways with them; having been given authority by Him, for the particular purpose of preaching "that men should repent..."

B. Then He Sent Them Out

1. Out = Beyond their home towns
2. Out = Out on their own, apart from Him, their leader and teacher who up until now has directed their affairs from the physical position of being with them. If there was a question about what they should do or say, up until now they simply had to turn and ask Jesus what to do. If He was not close at hand one of the 12 other recognized disciples was. It is a whole different ball game traveling with a confident leader who has demonstrated His ability to solve any danger you face, than it is traveling on your own. Who is going to calm the raging sea now? Who is

going to stand between them and the demonic? Who is going to know what to do when someone dies? Now they were out on their own apart from Him.

C. He Sent them Out In Pairs

1. Why Pairs

- a. "Satisfying the Requirement of Two or Three Witnesses"
- b. "Some Measure of Protection" – Traveling Came With Risks
 - i. Story of Good Samaritan – He was good because a traveler had fallen into the hands of the bad. Traveling was dangerous.
 - ii. Sermon on the Mount – "Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two." (Mt 10:41)
- c. Accountability

D. He Sent them Out for a Short Period of Time

1. It was a "JOURNEY" (6:8)
2. They Returned to Him (6:30)
3. They Debriefed and were **with Him some more** – following Him further, knowing Him better, leaning more from Him...

So, how did our Lord extend His reach? Well, we see in this passage that He sent His disciples out. They did not come up with this plan on their own. This was Jesus' plan for extending the reach of His Kingdom. This passage not only shows that He sent them out in pairs, but how He sent them out – He sent them out equipped with two very important gifts. First we note that...

II. Jesus Gave them AUTHORITY

A. What Authority Jesus Had

1. Already Demonstrated authority

a. [Mark 4](#)

Jesus Demonstrated His authority over: seas, demons, sickness, even death

b. [Mark1:22](#)

They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having **authority**, and not as the scribes.

c. [Mark1:27](#)

They were all amazed, so that they debated among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with **authority**! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." The ability to command the unclean spirits demonstrated authority.

d. [Mark2:10](#)

"But so that you may know that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins"

2. Later Declared authority:

[Matthew28:18](#)

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

3. Jesus had the authority of God, the King of the Kingdom of God

B. He Gave them Some of That Authority

Our Passage: over the unclean spirits

Matthew Parallel: over sickness

III. He Gave Them INSTRUCTION

A. Jesus Gave Them Instruction Regarding What to Take (v.8-9)

1. General Rule -- Take Nothing!
2. Specific Exclusions:
 - a. no bread,
 - b. no bag,
 - c. no money in their belt
 - d. no second tunic (v. 9)
3. Exceptions to the Rule of Take Nothing = Permissions
 - a. "a mere staff"
 - b. "to wear sandals"
4. What the Disciple Prepared by Jesus for Mission Looked Like
 - a. Pretty stripped down and ready to run.

Hebrews 12:1

[*Jesus, the Example*] Therefore, **since** we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the **sin** which so easily **entangles** us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 1 Corinthians 9:24

Do you not know that those who **run** in a race all **run**, but only one receives the prize? **Run** in such a way that you may **win**.

- b. Like an Israelite ready to go out from captivity in Egypt

Exodus 12:11

¹¹Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste--it is the LORD'S Passover.

5. Why Travel So Light – (Credit to Lori)

- a. Protection for Them
 - i. As we have already talked about. A man with no belongings would be less likely to be accosted by thieves. God's "restrictions" just may be for our own good.
 - ii. Hawaii, if you don't want your car broken into: drive a heap, leave it open, carry no valuables.
- b. Effectiveness for Mission –

JP Proverb: "A messenger of one tunic delivers his message." Less distractions, less worries.
- c. That They May Learn God's Provision –

When you buy it with your own money and carry it on your own back it is easiest to see yourself as providing for yourself. When your food and lodging comes from God through others it is easier to see God as your provider. God as provider is a lesson well learned. I'm still learning it. When I face a ministry problem I tend to inventory my resources and with those in mind chart my course. These disciples had no room for falling into this limiting trap. They had no resources and thus just needed to do what Jesus had told them to do, trusting Him that God would provide for their needs.
- d. That God's Power Be Manifested and Not Confused with Man's Charisma –
 - i. a couple of guys walking into town dependent on God via the hospitality of others does not gain attention the way powerful men of means secure a platform.

ii. 1 cor 2:3-5 -- was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

B. Jesus Gave Them Instruction Regarding Where to Stay

1. Stay in One House (v. 10)

When the traveling disciples receive the hospitality of a towns person willing to take them in, Jesus instructs them to stay with them until they leave town instead of looking each night for different accommodations.

2. Why So Limited

One commentator I read postulated that this would keep them focused on their mission and not distracted by the efforts related to finding another place to stay. Again this is a stripped down, mission focused move.

C. Jesus Gave Them Instruction Regarding What to Do When Things Go Wrong

1. The Wrong That Could Go

- i. Not Received
- ii. Not Listened To

2. Plan B – Exit Strategy

- i. Go Out
- ii. Shake the Dust Off Your Feet

- [Matthew 10:14](#)
"Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the **dust** off your **feet**."
- [Mark 6:11](#)
"Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the **dust** off the soles of your **feet** for a testimony against them."
- [Luke 9:5](#)
"And as for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the **dust** off your **feet** as a testimony against them."
- [Luke 10:11](#)
' Even the **dust** of your city which clings to our **feet** we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'
- [Acts 13:51](#)
But they shook off the **dust** of their **feet** in protest against them and went to Iconium.

Possible Meanings

-- There is a message of warning communicated with this action to the people that did not receive the messengers of Jesus or His message that in His coming the Kingdom of God was at hand. One commentator says,

"This gesture within the land of Israel serves as a prophetic, enigmatic, warning that this is a pagan place and will be cut off from the kingdom of God if they fail to respond."

-- Have no part of and be not affected by those who do not receive God's message of repentance.

– Shoe hurled at former President Bush was insulting not only because it was thrown at him, but also because it was a shoe – that which was worn on the foot, next to the dirt and filth of the world.

-- Dust yourself off and move on cowboy. This could be another mission expedient.

**D. Jesus Did Not Give Them Much Instruction –
He did not say...**

- Here's what you do when you encounter a demon that won't come out...
- Here's what you say when you preach repentance...
- Here's how to preach... First capture their attention, then tell them what you are going to say, say it, then tell them what you said. No, none of that...

This speaks again to a simple reliance on God to give them not only food and shelter but the words to speak to carry out their mission. Following the parallel account of this passage in the Gospel of Matthew Jesus said, Mat 10:19 "But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say."

The thought struck me that the best way to prepare to represent someone is to know that person.

If I were given the job of representing you to the world, the best way to prepare myself for that job would be to spend time with you, get to know you, see you in action, understand what makes you tick and what you regard as important, what you are trying to accomplish with your life...

The same was probably true with Jesus disciples. They did not need detailed instructions about what to do in each and every situation as much as they need to know, truly know, Jesus Himself. If they knew Jesus, they could represent Him and His mission well without all the instruction. There is a message there for us as well. Know Jesus! The rest follows naturally from there.

Conclusion

We have to note v.12 & 13 records that the twelve, with the authority and instruction Jesus had given them, did what Jesus sent them out to do. This is our heritage -- men obedient to the call of Christ on their lives.

This passage in and of itself gives no explicit marching orders for us. It rather simply states how Jesus began to send out His disciples to minister extending His reach beyond His direct person to person ministry.

We need to be careful to not over apply the Bible, i.e., forcing an application that the Holy Spirit did not intend for the passage. For example, a forced application might be that God wants us all to go out in poverty and kick some demon butt.

At the same time, we should be equally cautious about under applying this passage which does indeed show how our Lord Jesus worked in salvation history. An example of an under application would be to think that this passage has no direct command therefore we need not do anything with it besides read on.

Perhaps the best thing to do with passages of Scripture which don't explicitly call us to some action is to make sure we understand them so that we will understand God and how He deals with mankind. Then armed with this knowledge, we should let the Scriptures peak our interest in how God, who has acted this way in the past, might use us in the future.

For instance, a question I certainly have is, did God mean this type of ministry to be normative for all generations until He returns? Should my ministry, and that of all Christians, be marked by the preaching of repentance, the casting out of demons, and the healing of the sick by anointing them with oil all carried out in the extreme poverty and dependence on others which Jesus instructed the Twelve to experience in this passage?

Is it enough to say that since Jesus did it then with the twelve, He must mean to continue it with me, and with you?

What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do with this knowledge of how Jesus worked then with the twelve? I'm sure He at least wants you to know that this is the way Jesus worked then with his apostles. He may be calling you to a similar ministry.

But we must hold in mind the other equally valid teachings of Scripture like 1 Cor 12 which teaches that God gifts each member of the body of Christ with a different set of gifts and does not give all the same gifts and all the same callings to every member. To one is given the ...distinguishing of spirits, ... to another the gifts of healing, ...all do not have the gift of healing do they?...

[1 Corinthians 12:29](#)

All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they?

Jesus, in this passage, began to extend His ministry and His Kingdom by giving authority and instruction to His apostles and sending them out. In n similar ways, He is still doing this with us. I'd ask you this week to put this before the Lord.

Lord Jesus, what authority have you given me? What task have you called me to? In what way do you want me to go out of my comfort zone and be on a mission for you?