

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Mark 6:7-13
July 18, 2021

The sending the 12: More than history! Public Ministry.

- Clearly history. Classic Mark: brief, action, bare facts. Just history? No!
- Prescriptive to us - how we are to do it? No! Instruction to the 12 at that time.
 - ♦ The night of Jesus' arrest he recalls this and offers future instructions. Luke 22:35-36

The sending the 12: More than history! Public Ministry.

❖ Chosen and sent by Jesus with his authority

- When Jesus invited them to be his protégés (disciples): *make you fishers of men*
 - ♦ *fishers of men* - gathering people to God
- Later Jesus chose the 12 Apostles (ones sent) from among his disciples
 - ♦ Apostle: implies the authority of the Sender
 - ♦ Sent to speak on behalf of the One who sent them to share **his** message.
- **He gave them authority over the unclean spirits.**
 - ♦ Authority Jesus had as the Christ - his to give
 - ♦ ¹² *They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They also drove out many demons. They anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*
 - Their work reveals the full authority Jesus gave
 - ⁷ *As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near!'* ⁸ *Heal the sick. Raise the dead. Cleanse lepers. Drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.* Matthew 10
- The message Jesus gave them was God's word
 - ♦ God's word is full of his power and authority to change hearts and minds
 - ♦ **Repent** = a gospel imperative with God's power to turn fleshly thinking into seeing & desiring the blessing of God's reign/kingdom/way of operating
 - ♦ **The role of miracles:** confirm that the message and messenger are from God.
- Jesus still sends Ministers (Servants) of his word today.
 - ♦ Jesus Ascended to rule all things - in part to send *the apostles, ...evangelists, ... pastors and teachers* Ephesians 4:11
 - ♦ Jesus calls them to faith, moves to offer self, equips, trains, and then calls
 - ♦ Jesus calls for Public Ministry through his church - his gathered followers.
 - Every follower of Jesus is called to share Jesus in their own life with others.
 - To serve in public ministry, on behalf of the church - the church calls.
 - Servants of Jesus' word - **speaking the word with Christ's authority.**

❖ Sent to confirm and model trust in God's care

- Jesus' instructions here to the 12 - designed to confirm their trust in God's promises
- *Go as you are. Pack nothing for your needs. Watch. God will provide.*
- Our Heavenly Father provides through the people overjoyed with the gospel.
 - ♦ A heart liberated from guilt and fear by God's full free forgiveness - gives
 - ♦ Hearts transformed by God's love, loves others, eager to help others hear.
 - ♦ They want the messenger of the word to stay and share more.
 - ♦ Like Lydia: *"If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.* Acts 16:15

- The Apostles needed to experience God’s faithful care. Trained for ministry.
 - ♦ ³⁵ [Jesus] said to them, “When I sent you out without money bag, traveler’s bag, and sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they said. ³⁶ Then he told them, “But now, let the one who has a money bag take it, and likewise a traveler’s bag. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. Luke 22:35-36
- The Apostles also modeled trust in God as they came with the bare word.
 - ♦ Repent is a call to *trust* God and his word. *They practiced what they preached.*
 - ♦ The new heart of faith trusts God to be my God, confident of his perfect care.
 - ♦ They didn’t go to make a living. They brought life, trusting God to provide.

❖ **God’s people welcome his word and its messengers.**

- ¹⁰ He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that area. ¹¹ Any place that will not receive you or listen to you, as you leave there, shake off the dust that is under your feet as a testimony against them.”
- **Here’s an important reality:** The way you treat God’s word is how you treat God. The way you treat a Minister of God’s word is the way you treat God.
 - ♦ Welcome, delight in, trust, respect, love, devotion to the word - the same to God.
 - ♦ Those who respect, love, and trust God will respect God’s gifts: the Servant of the word and God’s word that his servant brings.
 - A Minister of the Word speaks with God’s authority when he speaks God’s word.
 - God’s people are called to recognize false preachers and those teaching error and respectfully point out their error. Then leave and put themselves under the care of a faithful Servant of God’s word.
 - This may not be easy or convenient, but God and his Word are everything.
- **Note:** when the town doesn’t welcome the word - don’t just leave saying nothing.
 - ♦ *Any place that will not receive you or listen to you, as you leave there, shake off the dust that is under your feet as a testimony against them.*
 - *You are left on your own. You wanted nothing to do with God. So be it.*
 - *It was a sign of God disowning them - calling them to repent before it’s too late.*
 - This is not an act of hatred or disrespect. It *speaks the truth out of care.*
 - ♦ An experienced WELS pastor told the story - calling on an absent member
 - Knocked repeatedly. Clear evidence the man was home, but not answering
 - He started to walk away, paused, returned and wiped his shoes on the doormat.
 - As he started to walk away, the door opened. *What’s that all about?*
 - Pastor returned and explained: *It was a testimony that you rejected the word.*
 - The man invited him in, heard the word, repented, & returned to hear the word - to do what God’s people do - **welcome God’s word, recognizing its authority.**
 - It’s not about us being right. It’s about God’s word making us whole.
 - Those who treasure God’s word know it never stops working wonders.
 - Those who treasure God’s word - treasure God’s Public Ministers of the Word.
- This is real history that teaches us God works through his Servants of the Word.
 - ♦ A humbling truth for us who serve in it. A great joy to God’s faithful people.