

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Mark 6:7-13

July 16, 2017

People and Pastors, marvel at God's grace in establishing the Ministry of the Word.

Nothing happens in little towns and villages. The big things happen in big cities.
The little villages of Galilee heard about Jesus' work in Capernaum and from those who attended the Festivals in Jerusalem

People and Pastors, marvel at God's grace in establishing the Ministry of the Word.

- ❖ He chose his Servants, equipped them, and sent them on his mission.
 - Jesus chose them. They were not self-appointed. Pure Grace!
 - Mark 1-2, called them to faith to be his followers/believers
 - Mark 3 called the 12 Apostles to public ministry and training
 - ◆ Now it was time for *on the job training* for their life's work
 - ◆ *These instructions:* so they experience that **God provides** - pure grace
 - ◆ God provides through the people who welcome his word - pure grace
 - Jesus equipped them with the Word and his authority to speak for God
 - ◆ Also in their case - authority over diseases and demons
 - ◆ Pure gifts of God's undeserved love for his Servants and the people
 - Jesus gave them his mission (not open to change)
 - ◆ It looks like a 3 pronged mission: preach, heal, expel demons
 - ◆ **Single mission:** rescue people from Satan's cruel grasp - for God
 - ◆ Healing and casting out demons: **don't** make too much of it or ignore it!
 - For people who focus on comfort now - these are BIG
 - These are marks that this Word is from the Living God
 - Their role is to affirm and confirm the Word.
 - Jesus didn't give this authority to other Ministers of the Word
 - So we might be tempted to ignore this. **Don't!**
 - They show Jesus' heart for the *little guy* and the *forgotten*.
 - They remain witnesses that Jesus and his Word are from God!
 - ◆ The mission of **Christ's public Ministry of the Word** is to **publicly proclaim the Word of Christ**. Nothing more. Nothing less.
 - *They went out and preached that people should repent.* NIV
 - *They went out and proclaimed (the Word) with the purpose that the hearers' mindset be changed from opposing God to welcoming God.*

- *God exalted [Jesus] to his right hand as Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and the forgiveness of sins.* Acts 5:31 EHV

- ❖ The Ministry of the Word gives repentance - God's new life.
 - Repent = *change of mind or mindset*.
 - **Rescue** from the mindset perverted and blinded by sin
 - ◆ The mindset of sin infected children of Adam
 - ◆ A mindset operating in the dark, deceived, thinking lies are truth
 - ◆ Mindset that *God is the problem. I need to be the solution.*
 - ◆ Mindset that *no one knows what's better for me, than I do.*
 - ◆ Mindset of being in charge - *my own master - the decider*
 - God's Word: You, sin, and death are the problem. God is the solution.
 - ◆ Jesus came to save us from this lie of death & separation from God.
 - ◆ In love Jesus sends his Word, opens eyes, gives forgiveness and life.
 - ◆ He rescues us from all that keeps us from God for full life in/with God
 - ◆ The Ministry of the Word is needed to keep on giving repentance - mindset modification, fullness in Christ, protection, new life.
 - Pure grace heaped upon grace - all undeserved gifts.
 - What do you want out of your church and your pastor?
 - ◆ In a consumer culture = consumers decide: *church shopping*
 - ◆ Seek *what we feel meets our needs*. Anointing self as the Authority.
 - Christians know they need Christ.
 - ◆ He gives his Word and the Public Ministry of the Word.
 - ◆ His Word and Sacraments alone meet our need. Gifts of grace.
 - ◆ To proclaim Christ is both proclaiming what Jesus has done and calling his people to keep on listening to Jesus.
 - That's what **living faith** does - *listens to Jesus*
 - Only his Word can keep on producing the new-life mindset changes.
 - It also needs to tell **those who stop welcoming** God's Word:
 - You're living apart from the Word, apart from God, apart from life.
 - You belong to the world. You are lost.
 - You protest that you still *believe*. **Believe what**, when you have no time for God's Word - the milk, meat, and air of God's people.
 - True love speaks the truth to rescue the lost before it is too late.
 - The Ministry of the Word gives repentance, not false comfort.

It is important for us to remain faithful, not to join the herd in consuming religion on personal terms. Be servants of the Word.

People and Pastors, marvel at God's grace in establishing the Ministry of the Word.