

## Luke 9:1-20 - MISSION AND MINISTRY

- the world today just wanders aimlessly without any direction or purpose

- almost like going in whatever direction the wind is blowing

- even in our churches we seem to have lost the idea of what serving the Lord looks like

- as Jesus is ministering to the crowds of people following Him, He gives some clear instructions to His closet followers, and then gives them an example of trusting God as they minister to people

### **1. JESUS SENDS OUT THE APOSTLES**

#### **(1-2) CALLED AND SENT**

- the 12 are called and sent

- that's always the order

- He gave them authority (power) = the Greek word *dunamis* = means strength, power, ability

- when God calls or commands He enables us to do what He is asking us to do

- sent = *apostello* = where we get our word *apostle* = it means *to send*

- to preach = to proclaim, to let something be known

- Matthew tells us a little more about the message they were to share - [Matthew 10:7](#) = And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
- we are called to preach - [Luke 8:39](#)

#### **(3-6) INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MISSION**

- travel light and trust God to supply what you need

- live simply

- don't bounce from place to place if a better opportunity presents itself

- don't linger if you are not received

- sometimes you just need to move on
- I think it's good to have answers to sincere questions that people have, but some aren't looking for truth, they're looking to argue or to ridicule.
  - A young woman teacher with obvious liberal tendencies explains to her class of young students that she is an atheist. She asks her class if they are atheists too. Not really knowing what atheism is but wanting to be like their teacher, their hands explode into the air like fleshy fireworks. There is, however, one exception. A girl named Lucy has not gone along with the crowd. The teacher asks her why she has decided to be different. "Because I'm not an atheist." Then, asks the teacher, what are you? "I'm a Christian." The teacher is a little perturbed now, her face slightly red. She asks Lucy why she is a Christian. "Well, I was brought up knowing and loving Jesus. My mom is a Christian, and my dad is a Christian, so I am a Christian." The teacher is now angry. "That's no reason," she says loudly. "What if your mom was a moron, and your dad was a moron. What would you be then?" A pause, and a smile.... "Then," says Lucy, "I'd be an atheist."

- they went - preaching and healing

**(7-9) NEWS REACHES HEROD**

- Herod was confused when he heard about Jesus

- perhaps he was suffering from a guilt conscience because of having John beheaded

- there was a prophecy that Elijah would appear again - [Malachi 4:5](#) = Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

- John the Baptist had appeared in the spirit of Elijah - [Luke 1:17](#) = He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
- Elijah will come again - [Matthew 17:11](#) = Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.

- just like today, people were confused and had a lot of opinions about who Jesus really was

## **(10) THE DISCIPLES RETURN**

- the guys returned from their mission and reported to Jesus all that they had done

- Jesus took them away for a little R&R

- you know the old saying = come apart or you will come apart
- sometimes we push ourselves too hard and just slow down
- The Parable of the Banker and the Fisherman
  - An American investment banker was at the pier of a small coastal Mexican village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the small boat were several large yellow fin tuna.

The banker complimented the Mexican fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them.

- The fisherman replied, “Only a little while.”
- The banker then asked why didn’t he stay out longer and catch more fish.
- The fisherman said he had enough to support his family’s immediate needs.
- The banker then asked, “But what do you do with the rest of your time?”
- The Mexican fisherman said, “I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take siestas with my wife, stroll into the village each evening where I sip wine, and play guitar with my amigos. I have a full and busy life.”
- The investor scoffed, “I am an Ivy League MBA and could help you. You should spend more time fishing and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat. With the proceeds from the bigger boat, you could buy several boats, and eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. “
- The investor continued, “And instead of selling your catch to a middleman you would then sell directly to the processor, eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing, and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to Mexico City, then Los Angeles and eventually New York City, where you will run your expanding enterprise.”

- The fisherman asked, “But how long will this all take?”
- To which the banker replied, “Perhaps 15 to 20 years.”
- “But what then?” asked the Mexican.
- The banker laughed and said, “That’s the best part. When the time is right you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich. You would make millions!”
- “Millions. Okay, then what?” wondered the fisherman.
- To which the investment banker replied, “Then you would retire. You could move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take siestas with your wife, and stroll to the village in the evenings where you could sip wine and play your guitar with your amigos.”

## **2. JESUS FEEDS 5,000**

### **(11) THE CROWDS APPEAR AGAIN**

- the rest was short-lived

- there may be times when we need to postpone our time of rest

- notice who received, spoke to, and ministered to the crowd

### **(12-15) JESUS HAS COMPASSION ON THE CROWD**

- this is recorded in all 4 Gospels

### **(16-17) THE MULTITUDE IS FED**

- here the disciples are learning a lesson we all need to learn =

TRUST GOD

- here are a couple of reminders

1. Follow the Lord's instructions = "You give them something to eat."
2. Give what you have to the Lord
3. Trust God for the results

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