

Don't Kill the Messenger!

*The true story of King Tigranes of Armenia, 69 BC.*

The Unique Role of Apostles

Leadership

*Appointed as apostles in Luke 6:12-16*

*Given power (dunamis) and authority (exousia)*

*It is a delegated authority, not an inherent authority, given by the calling of Jesus himself*

- King Saul's example
- Nadab and Abihu and Eli's sons
- Judas
- Paul's comments in Galatians 1:8
- Ephesus in Rev. 2:4-5

*Travel light! Because God gives provision along with the authority and power (verses 3 and 4)*

*We have to stay on mission!*

- Where is the Gospel in this passage?
- Hope Fellowship's Mission – *Make Reproducing Disciples*

Teaching

*Are there apostles today? A distinction is required!*

*Apostles as “ones who are sent”*

Apostle can mean someone who is sent by the church. In the modern sense, this could be tied to the ministry of missionaries, church planters, and perhaps people who have a broader ministry across churches like denominational leadership. (Acts 14:14, 2 Corinthians 8:23, Philippians 2:25).

*Apostles as a special office*

Apostle can also refer to a special office which disappeared after the generation of eyewitnesses to Jesus died. They *had* to be eyewitnesses of Jesus (Acts 1:21-22). They brought authoritative revelation (2 Peter 3:2, Galatians 1:1, 11-12), and laid a *foundation* upon which the church is built (Ephesians 2:20). The church fathers overwhelmingly did not believe there were more apostles after the original.

And Our Duty to Receive Them

A call to repentance

*Shake off the dust of your feet*

We need to listen to God’s messengers

Exodus 16:8 – “Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

1 Samuel 8:7 – “*They have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.*”

God tells Samuel that Israel’s request for a king is a rejection of God’s kingship, not just Samuel’s leadership.

Ezekiel 3:7 – “*The house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me.*”

John 13:20 – “*Whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.*”

1 Thessalonians 4:8 – “*Whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.*”

Your response required

*When God’s messenger communicates his message, rejecting the messenger is rejecting God himself.*

Questions for Personal Study

1. What do we learn about Jesus’ character and priorities in this passage?
2. Why is it significant that, instead of Jesus becoming unclean, the woman and daughter become clean?
3. Where in the passage do we see the importance of faith for Jairus and the woman? How does the woman’s faith become strength for Jairus?
4. What has God done in your life recently, and who is someone that needs to hear about it?