

The Way of Jesus: The Cost of Discipleship

Missy Carfield · Sunday, September 20, 2026

Scripture: Mark 6:6b-13 (with 6:1-6, 14-30)

Summary

Jesus sends the Twelve with almost nothing but His authority—and Mark sets that commission next to John's death to show that the way of Jesus can cost even your life.

Overview

Opening with a seminary commissioning story and a wooden staff given as a tangible reminder that she and Jim went out with "a mission and a call and the presence of God," Missy presses that every follower of Jesus is both called and sent. A true disciple knows and believes the gospel, is being transformed in holiness of heart and life, and is married to God's mission. In Mark 6, right after Nazareth's rejection, Jesus sends the Twelve two by two with a staff only—no bread, bag, money, or extra shirt—telling them to stay where they first land and, if unwelcome, to shake the dust off their feet. Their first mission trip proclaims repentance with His authority; Mark then "changes the camera angle" to Herod, terrified that John (whom he beheaded for speaking truth about Herodias) has risen. Sandwiched between Jesus' rejection and John's martyrdom, the sending makes the cost unmistakable: when He calls us, He also sends us, and we should anticipate rejection—yet the message must not change.

Key points

- Three marks of a disciple: believe the gospel, live transformed, marry God's mission
- Sent with dependence (a staff), integrity (stay put), and realism about rejection (shake the dust)
- Mark's sandwich: Jesus rejected -> Twelve sent -> John's costly faithfulness -> apostles report back
- The gospel came through someone to you; it must go through you to someone else
- Fear of rejection is not a pass; popularity cannot outrank the truth of the gospel

Memorable lines

"You go with a mission and a call and the presence of God."

"He never calls us without also sending us."

"The gospel went through somebody to get to you... It doesn't get to stop with you."

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. (Jim Elliot)"

Takeaway

This week, ask the Lord where and to whom He wants you to speak of your faith—then surrender the safety nets and say yes in that moment, willing to be awkward for the gospel.

Source: Bay Point Church livestream / YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chTvHUJiHmg>