

“And they went out, and preached that men should repent.” (Mark 6:12)

Repent - Verse 12

Not surprisingly, Jesus’ disciples preached **repentance**.

Jesus, immediately after His temptation in the wilderness preached **repentance**... John the Baptist, Paul, Peter... every preacher whose words are recorded in the Bible preached the need to **repent**!

And **repentance** is the message that Jesus gave to His disciples to proclaim as they went from village to village.

*“And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.”
(Mark 6:13)*

POWER - Verse 13

Along with the powerful message, Jesus sent them out with power.

In verse 7 we see that they have power over unclean spirits. In verse 13 above, we see this same power mentioned.

We also see in verse 13 that they also were sent by Jesus to heal the sick.

Much could be said with regards to dealing with devils and healing the sick, but that would be too much to include in this short study.

However, we should note that “demonic oppression” and “sickness” are clearly not always related. There are some teachers today that seek to blame the demons and their actions for everything. Some teach that all sickness is a result of demons.

Others reject the notions of devils and their diabolical interactions in the lives of humans altogether. These often blame everything on human frailty.

Verse 13 shows us clearly that **BOTH** are real. There are devils that need to be dealt with... **AND** there are also illnesses that are in need of a touch from the hand of God.

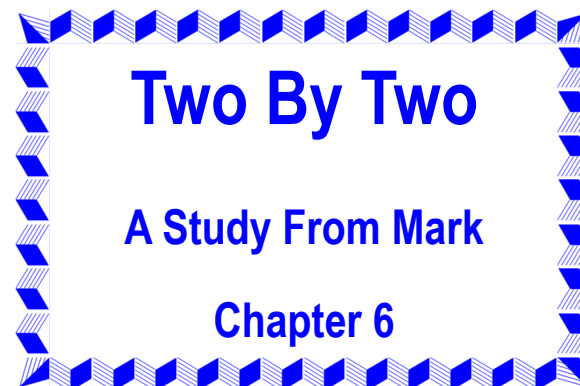
We Can Learn Much!

If we will take our time... read what the Bible actually says... and prayerfully seek the help of the Holy Spirit to understand God and His Word...

we will be surprised at what we find...

...it will ALL be about JESUS!

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“And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;” (Mark 6:7)

In this writing we will briefly examine some verses from Mark 6:7-13.

As you can see from the title and verse 7 quoted above, this is an account of Jesus sending His disciples out two by two. What can we glean from this passage of Scripture?

Two By Two - Verse 7

The first thing that we see is Jesus called His disciples and sent them out in pairs. From this we may deduce that ministry should often be more than one individual.

While there may be times when God calls a single person to a specific task, this is likely rare and with few exceptions. There should

TWO BY TWO

always be people praying for those in ministry.

Another observation from verse 7, is that Jesus called the **twelve**... this means that Judas was likewise sent out with the rest. Why would Jesus include Judas? Which disciple was Judas' partner?

Judas being sent with the rest may raise more questions than answers, but it is interesting to ponder.

Was Jesus giving Judas opportunities to see and experience his Master's power? Was this an effort to draw Judas to Himself?

Another observation is that when Jesus sent them... He **empowered them!** They had power over unclean spirits.

We must remember this when God sends us... He **empowers** us to **accomplish His mission!**

"And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: (9) But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats." (Mark 6:8-9)

FAITH - Verses 8 and 9

When God calls us to ministry... He calls us to new levels of faith.

As seen in Mark 6:8-9 above, Jesus told His disciples that they were not to travel with supplies. He told them not to take anything for their journey except a staff, their sandals, and one coat.

This was different from their daily following Jesus. During their three years with the Master, Judas carried the money bag... Jesus paid taxes with money retrieved from a fish.

But now, they were sent out with no money... no supplies... what they needed was **faith!**

"And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place." (Mark 6:10)

Stay With Those Who Receive You - Verse 10

God desires to provide for His servants through His people. This desire is seen throughout the Bible and is codified in the Law and clarified in the New Testament.

It makes perfect sense that a God of love would seek to provide for those He calls to leadership ministry.

In this passage, once the disciples have been welcomed into a home... Jesus tells them to continue in this home until it is time for them to go to another town.

Logically, this does not make sense. If God sent them to a place for three months, wouldn't it be natural to be concerned about "overstaying your

welcome" or "putting an undue burden on your host"?

God's ways are not our ways.

God will provide for the host! Their eager participation in the ministry of Jesus' disciples does not go unnoticed by God.

"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city." (Mark 6:11)

Shake The Dust Off Your Feet - Verse 11

This is a very serious statement.

The disciples were sent by Jesus, God the Son, to go and preach God's Word.

Anyone who did not receive them or hear the Word of the Lord from them were to be **testified against!** They were to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against those who rejected them and God's Word.

Suffice it to say that it will be **worse** for those who **reject** the **Jesus** that the disciples preached, and the **word** that He gave them, than for Sodom and Gomorrha on Judgement Day.
