

## **Mark 6:7-13 – Preparing to save the next Generation**

Beloved in the Lord: We want our children to learn to be able to change a tire and the oil in their car, to replace the filter on the furnace, to fix a leaky faucet, but most of all, we want our children to learn to live in peace and quiet before him. We want them to learn do these things before we die. So we prepare them.

Similarly, Jesus knew he would die and could not be physically present on earth forever and so he wanted to prepare for that eventuality (可能发生的事) . So for more than 3 years he prepared his disciples (门徒) to do the work he called them to do. In our passage today you will see how Jesus moved from theoretical (理论性的) aspect of their training to the practical aspect of their training, which was to go out and preach. As they were about to go and preach, he gave them final instructions. You will hear about this today.

### **Preparing for Duty** **Performing of Duty**

Our goals: **That you will preach the Gospel (and support the preaching of the Gospel) and confirm it with your life so that the next generation might be better prepared to serve the Lord.**

### **Preparing for Duty**

7 And He **called the twelve** to Himself, and began to **send them out two by two**, and gave them **power over unclean spirits.**

#### **1. Jesus called and prepared 12 disciples to preach the Gospel so that men and women might hear the truth and be saved.**

The disciples had studied in class, but now they had to preach in the country.

#### **2. Jesus called twelve disciples to symbolize the church-nation of Israel which had 12 Patriarchs 族长 – ruling fathers.**

Jesus wanted to teach that **Israel was being restored** and they were being **restored through the preaching of the Word.**

**After the 12 disciples had their first stint (工作时间) of practical training, Jesus then sent out 70 men** the next time to picture the 70 men in the Sanhedrin – the present leaders of Israel. **Israel's teachers in the past and Israel's teachers in the present had failed (Ezekiel 34) and Israel needed new shepherds (牧者).** The false shepherds had abused the sheep enough. They had starved (使饥饿) the sheep, starving them of the Good News. Now things were now going to change. He had prepared self-sacrificing shepherds.

#### **3. Jesus sent the disciples to preach in the local area.**

They were not to go out of Judah. They were not to go to Samaria. This was the disciples' first test, so Jesus did not send them too far away from home. And he only sent them for a few days.

#### **4. Jesus sent the 12 disciples two by two.**

a. **This is a much better way of ministry (事工).** One could help the other.

b. **Two witnesses (见证人) establish any truth** – in particular, they established the words that Jesus spoke.

#### **5. Jesus gave the disciples the authority to do mighty works.**

Miracles and casting out demons (赶鬼) confirmed **truthfulness of the words they preached.** And being the source of all authority, Jesus was able to give some of this authority to the disciples. **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.** 19 **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **"teaching them to observe all things that I have**

commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."  
Amen.

8 He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff (杖)—no bag, no bread, no copper (铜币), in their money belts—9 but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics (外衣).

**6. Jesus then gave his disciples the details of what to take and not take on their short missionary (宣教的) journey.**

**a. They were to take one staff.** The staff helped them to walk quicker and safer and they could get more work done. They were not to take any staves which were used for carrying things on the shoulders. They did not need the extra weight.

**b. They were not to take any bag, bread, or money with them.** God wanted his people dependent on his provision (供应) through local people. The hearers of the Gospel had to provide for the preachers of the Gospel.

**c. They were to take only the sandals on their feet and one overcoat.**

As before, Jesus wanted the **hearers of the Gospel to provide for the preachers (讲道人)** of the Gospel. He who preaches the Gospel, should be provided for and be able live off of the Gospel.

Matthew 10:9 "Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 "nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; **for a worker is worthy of his food.**

And surely **the disciples were able to travel faster without carrying an extra pair of sandals and an extra tunic.**

These instructions are not to be taken to mean that pastors are expected to live in abject poverty, as some teach; these men were only going on short journey for a few days as part of their preacher training.

10 Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place.

**7. Jesus told his disciples to live with a family in a town in which they were preaching until they were ready to leave.**

**In Matthew's account (which is longer) Jesus said that they were to inquire as to who was a good person in that area.** If anyone were godly (敬虔的) and feared and revered (尊敬) God and was ready to receive instruction, the disciples were to stay in his house. Jesus did not tell them to look for signs in the sky but examine the person to see if he were fit.

**If the disciples kept moving around from one house to another, it would show that they were unstable and unsatisfied, wanting to move to someone with a nicer house.**

**Also, moving around would waste time** on a short journey.

**Maybe it is a good warning for preachers who like to move, looking for greener pastures (草场).**

11 "And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"

**8. The disciples were to ignore the ones who refused to listen to their preaching.**

There is never any compulsion when it comes to Christianity.

**How were the disciples to leave the one who refused to listen?** They were to shake the dust off of their feet. **Shaking the dust off of their feet was testimony (as in a court of law) against them.**

This is what Paul and Barnabas did at Pisidian Antioch.

Acts 13:51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

This declared that the inhabitants (居民) of the place were so polluted, that the very ground on which they walked was infected. (The Jews did not allow even crops grown on foreign soil to be brought to Israel.)

**9. The disciples were not to be afraid to preach because those who rejected the disciples' words would be severely punished.**

How severely would that city or town be judged (punished)? Their judgment would be worse than it was for Sodom and Gomorrah which were totally destroyed with burning sulfur (硫磺). But why would that city or town be punished worse than Sodom and Gomorrah? Sodom and Gomorrah did not sin against a person greater than the Lord and his Apostles (使徒). The people of Jesus' time knew more and saw more of God than the Sodomites. This threat of God's revenge would no doubt give courage to the disciples as they went out to preach.

**10. Lessons:**

**a. You are to go with the Gospel of Jesus to your own people first**...starting at home. Don't ignore your family to save the world.

**b. It takes preparation and practice to share with Gospel with others.** Practice with others. Have a script (脚本). Use the tract "What in the world are you living for?" You have to know the Word of God to teach your children. This is how you will save the next generation.

**c. There are different levels of punishment for the wicked.** There are different levels of rewards for the godly. Work well!

**d. When men deny the authority of Him who made and formed them,** when they refuse to listen to his voice, when they reject disdainfully (轻蔑地) his gentle invitations, and when they withhold the confidence which is due to his gracious promises, such ungodliness is the highest sin.

**e. The Lord severely avenges (报复) evil done to his servants.** So don't be afraid to fight with the Gospel.

**The Performing of Duty**

12 So they went out and preached that people should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

**1. The disciples went out two by two as Jesus said because this was safe and more effective.**

**2. The disciples then boldly proclaimed repentance (悔改).** They called on the people to be sorry for their sins, to turn from their sins, and to begin following God's holy laws. They did not preach about miracles...even though preaching about miracles would grab more attention than repentance. They did not preach of outward change and conformity...but of inward sorrow and repentance. They did not tickle the ears of the hearers. They were well-trained.

**3. The disciples cast out demons and healed the sick.**

Miracles were nothing else than seals (印记) of doctrine (教义). John Calvin. (The hearers faith is strengthen when he sees miracles.) So miracles were not done to create faith but to confirm faith. Faith only comes by hearing of God's plan for saving man. Miracles of healing and casting out of demons also showed

compassion (同情) on the weak and needy.

#### **4. But why did the disciples anoint the sick with oil?**

They used oil symbolically, testifying that healing was not by the disciples' own power and virtue, but by the Holy Spirit's. He is often pictured as fragrant oil. Some try to argue that this anointing was medicinal (医药的). They are wrong. Why? First, it is unreasonable to think that Jesus would send out these men, untrained in medicine, to practice being doctors. Second, doing herbal healing would tend to work against the miracles of the Jesus. Third, this interpretation goes against the literal reading of the text.

#### **5. Lessons:**

**a. Learn to work together...pastor, elders, parents, etc. for the good of the next generation.** We all must cooperate for the spread of the Gospel. (Of course we must be equipped-trained- in order to prepare the next generation.)

**b. Don't be afraid or ashamed to preach the Gospel.** This is the anti-venom (解毒药) that the next generation needs the most – both leaders and people. You must combat the filth (糟粕) that the next generation hears on TV and even in some churches. Only the Gospel will save.

**c. While miracles are not common today, you can back up the Word you preach by show showing the miracle of salvation on your life.**

**d. Preaching is quite a difficult and dangerous task. Be prepared for resistance (抵抗).** You may not shake the dust off of your feet with your children. Be persistent (坚持不懈的).

#### **Conclusion**

Christ prepared his ministers to be under-shepherds to him – to care for his flock after he returned to heaven. He taught them what to do and what to say and he sent them out to get some practical training.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Look how much Jesus loves his elected ones.** He wanted to prepare good shepherds under his direction to preach and prepare the next generation for eternity with the Gospel that would save and sanctify them.

**2. The key for the success of the work of the church is preaching the Gospel and calling people to repent.** You are not to preach what is easier to accept, like 'come see a miracle,' or "do the best you can and God will accept you and make you rich." You are not told to find out what people's "felt needs" were and fill those needs. No, you are to preach repentance for sins and faith in Jesus Christ.

**3. You will only prepare to work for the kingdom if you have a personal experience with Christ,** if you know what he means to you. If you do, you will work hard to leave a proper legacy遗产 -a legacy that lasts forever, for the next generation.

Finally, I say to you today, if you are not a Christian: Repent. Hate your sins. Turn away from your sins and turn to Jesus Christ. Obey the Lord. This is your only place of safety. Come to Jesus who died as a substitute (代替) for sinners on the cross. Then join his church.