

Ambassadors of the King

Luke 9:1-6

“When Jesus had called “the Twelve” together... *he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God.*”

Who are the Twelve? They are the twelve “apostles” or the original disciples. They are “Simon Peter and Andrew (brothers); James and John (brothers); Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas ...” (Matthew 10:2-3).

Why just the Twelve? Jesus came to fulfill the Old Covenant (obedience to the Law) and then “abolish it” while at the same time inaugurating a New Covenant (grace through faith) between God and man.

The Old Covenant

Moses gives the Law (Exodus 24:2)
“God’s promises are conditional” (Deut. 7:12)

The Old Covenant began with 12 Tribes
 God sent storms to punish the disobedient
 Israel inherited Canaan through obedience

The New Covenant

Jesus is the new Law Giver (John 13:35)
“All God’s promises are ‘yes’ in Christ” (II Cor. 1:20).

The New Covenant began with 12 Apostles
 We go with Christ through the storms for our good
 Christ followers *inherit the earth* through faith

Christ’s kingdom gets bigger - *like leaven expands bread and a seed turns into a tree* - till Christ comes. How? Christ sends us out to proclaim the kingdom. The King’s dominion over all things is the good news. Being sent by the King means we are ambassadors for the Kingdom. We are the official representatives.

I. We have been given by Christ some remarkable power and authority.

“He gave power and authority to drive out demons, to cure diseases, and to heal the sick” (v. 1).

Notice that even the Apostles had no inherent power. All authority and power belongs to Christ.

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given **to me**. Go therefore and...”* (Matthew 28:18).

“You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes. You ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this.’ You boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil” (Jam. 4:14).

II. We have been challenged by Christ to have a completely trusting attitude.

“Take nothing for the journey - no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.” (v. 3).

There’s nothing wrong with people making, having, or using money for Kingdom purposes. The words of Jesus seemed design to remind us that we have nothing to fear about tomorrow.

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” (Matthew 6:26).

“Our God will supply all our needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19).

III. We have been told by Christ to always be mindful of our Kingdom allegiance.

*“If people do not welcome you....**shake the dust off your feet** as a testimony against them”* (v. 5).

During ancient times, the Jews would travel from afar to their land - the Holy Land - and right before they stepped across the boundary to enter the Holy Land, they would “shake the dust off.”

So it is with those of us who have an allegiance to Christ’s Kingdom. Nothing is more important.

“Keep your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth” (Colossians 3:2).