

Mark

Lesson 8

Chapter 6:6-13

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

David R. Steele

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Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Lesson 8, Mark 6:6-13

Opening Prayer

Introduction

The account of Jesus sending out his disciples is in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Luke also includes a later account of Jesus sending out seventy-two disciples. Mark's account of Jesus sending out the twelve disciples is only seven-and one-half verses long. By comparison, Matthew's account is 42 verses and is one of Matthew's five great sermons of Jesus. Matthew includes the most complete report, but Luke includes additional details in the account of the seventy-two. Nearly all of Mark is in Matthew and Luke word for word.

In this lesson, we will study Jesus' instructions to the twelve and the seventy-two merged into one continuous account.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve, with merged accounts from Matthew and Luke.

Mk 6:6 Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

Mt 10:1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness Lk 9:2, and he sent them out [two by two] to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Mt 10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

Mt 10:3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Mt 10:4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Lk 10:1 After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

Mt 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Mt 10:6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.

Lk 10:2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Lk 10:3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

Mt 10:7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Mt 10:8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Mk 6:8 "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Mt 10:9 Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts Mk 6:9 Wear sandals but not an extra tunic; Mt 10:10b for the worker is worth his keep.

1. What message were the disciples were to proclaim?

The message was to proclaim the kingdom of God was near. Since their return from exile, the Jewish people waited 500 years for the Messiah and deliverance. Now, the Messiah had arrived.

2. How would the people know the disciples' message was true?

Miraculous signs of healing and casting out of demons accompanied the message to demonstrate it's truth.

3. Why would Jesus send out his disciples without material possessions?

The disciples relied on God to bring people to provide for their needs. When the disciples found people whose hearts were prepared, they blessed them and stayed with them.

4. In what ways might these instructions be applicable today – or not!?

I wonder if the pastor is reading this question! In some ways, it is similar, and some not. The message to us is still the same; we should count it as a blessing to provide for our pastors. No doubt, there is also a warning against materialism to the pastors. We have all seen reports of the lavish lifestyles of televangelists and the distasteful message it sends.

Continue reading the sending instructions.

Lk 10:8 **“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.**

Mt 10:11 **“Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. Mk 6:10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. Mt 10:12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting [Lk 10:5 first say, ‘Peace to this house].**

Mt 10:13 **If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.**

Lk 10:7 **Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.**

Lk 10:10 **But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,**

Lk 10:11 **‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.’**

Mt 10:14 **If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet [as a testimony against them] when you leave that home or town.**

Mt 10:15 **I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.**

Lk 10:13 **“Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.**

Lk 10:14 **But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.**

Lk 10:15 **And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.**

5. What made a home suitable for disciples to stay there?

A suitable home was one where the people practiced hospitality and welcomed the disciples, providing for their needs for as long as they were there.

6. What do Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum have in common to be singled out and condemned by Jesus?

Jesus settled in Capernaum after being rejected in Nazareth. Bethsaida was the home town of Peter, Andrew, and Philip. They are towns in Galilee where Jesus preached and performed many miracles; healing of the blind, feeding of the 5000, the centurion's servant, healing at Peter's house, driving out of evil spirits, the paralytic lowered through the roof, the son of the royal official. Jesus condemned them for their lack of faith.

Lk 10:16 "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

Mt 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

Mt 10:17 "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues.

Mt 10:18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

Mt 10:19 But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ^{Mt 10:20} for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Mt 10:21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

Mt 10:22 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Mt 10:23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

Mt 10:24 "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ^{Mt 10:25} It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, how much more the members of his household!

Mt 10:26 "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

Mt 10:27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

Mt 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Mt 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

Mt 10:30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Mt 10:31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Mt 10:32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

Mt 10:33 **But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.**

Lk 10:16 **“He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”**

7. What hardships does Jesus tell his disciples to expect? Why should they expect this?

Jesus told his disciples they would be arrested, flogged, hated, and persecuted because that would happen to him too.

8. What comfort does Jesus give to his disciples in the face of hardship?

Despite the warnings of persecution, Jesus told his disciples not to worry about their safety or about what to say. The God’s Spirit would give them the words, and they would be in the Father’s will at all times. They would receive an eternal reward in heaven.

9. To whom does Matthew 10:28 refer?

Matthew 10:28 is a tricky verse. It might seem that Jesus is referring to men who kill the body and Satan, who destroys the body and soul. But Jesus is saying to fear God because only He can judge and condemn the body and soul to hell.

Mt 10:34 **“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.**

Mt 10:35 **For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — Mt 10:36 a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’**

Mt 10:37 **“Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; Mt 10:38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.**

Mt 10:39 **Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Mt 10:40 **“He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.**

Mt 10:41 **Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward.**

Mt 10:42 **And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”**

10. The closing comments of Jesus to the disciples are among the difficult to understand and seem counter to our view of God’s love and grace.

a. What do you think Jesus meant by “I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

- b. What do you think Jesus meant by Matthew 10:35-36 “For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — ³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”

The analogies of the sword and enemies relate to families divided because of Christ. One spouse believes, the other not. Parents believe, but the kids don’t. In some cultures and religions, the non-believer is shunned and cast out of the house. Not so in Christianity – except in the case of ongoing gross immorality or violence. Jesus tells us to love our enemies. Paul instructs believers to preserve their marriage to unbelievers in 1 Corinthians 7.

11. What does it mean to take up your cross and follow Jesus?

In the simplest terms, to take up your cross and follow Jesus means putting down your schedule and put others first. We take on the role of a servant when we follow Jesus. I don't think we find that an easy thing to do – otherwise, the analogy might have been to tie your shoes and follow Jesus rather than taking up your cross.

12. What some acts of the saints Jesus mentions?

Some examples Jesus gave to illustrate the actions his followers were showing hospitality (receiving a prophet or righteous man) and caring for the needs of children – offering a cup of water, for example.

Read the epilog accounts of the sending of the disciples.

Mk 6:12 They went out and preached that people should repent.

Mk 6:13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Lk 9:6 So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

Lk 10:17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

Lk 10:18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Lk 10:19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. Lk 10:20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Lk 10:21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. Lk 10:22 All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and

no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Lk 10:23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. Lk 10:24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

Lk 9:7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, Lk 9:8 others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life.

Lk 9:9 But Herod said, “I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?” And he tried to see him.

Discuss

1. How did the disciples’ first mission trip go without Jesus being present?

They were amazed and overjoyed at the miracles they were able to perform—even the ability to drive out demons.

2. Jesus affirmed their joy. But he reminded them about an even greater joy they should always have in their hearts. What is that?

They should always rejoice that their names are written in heaven. After all, what good is it to have power in this world and miss out on eternity in heaven?

3. How is the gospel message so simple that even a little child can understand it?

God loves us just the way we are and wants us to live with him as his children. He sent his Son, Jesus, from heaven, to tell us that. Then, Jesus died for all our sins so that God would not have to punish us for the wrong things we do. Because God loved Jesus, he raised him from the dead so that he would live with his Father, God, forever in heaven - just like we will too. Just as God loves us, he tells us to love our neighbors (including our brothers or sisters!).

4. What is Jesus saying in verse 22? What comfort and assurance does this give you?

Jesus is saying that no one can know God unless Jesus reveals him. He said it in another way in John 15:16, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.” We come to God by his choosing. God’s choosing is called election. Some people have difficulty accepting election because they think God is unfair in choosing some but not others. Yet, for Martin Luther, the understanding that we are saved through God's choosing was the source of comfort and assurance. He summarized salvation through God's choosing as “Solo Gratia,” “Grace Alone.”

Salvation does not depend on our works, confession, or understanding, but through God’s revelation and the gift of faith. Then, all these are manifest. To God, be the glory.

5. Review the teaching of election, or predestination. How is that taught in verse 22? What comfort does this give you?

Jesus revealed the Father to certain people. They are the elect, and we are among them.

6. What is the rest of the story about Herod - how did John testify against Herod? What did Herod's sin lead him to do?

Herod Antipas divorced his wife and married Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip who was his brother by another mother. John the Baptist told Herod that his actions were unlawful, so Herod arrested him and wanted to kill John but was afraid to do so because of John's popularity and regard as a prophet of God (Matthew 14:1-12). Herodias' daughter (named Salome in Josephus) danced for Herod then asked the beheading of John as her reward.

During his arrest, Jesus was sent to Herod Antipas, who questioned and ridiculed him because Jesus would not perform a miracle for him. It was Herod who dressed Jesus in an elegant robe and sent him back to Pilate (Luke 23:6-12).

Historical sources indicate that Herod's reign did not go well. His ex-wife escaped to her father, King of the Nabateans, who revolted against Herod and defeated him in battle. The commander of two roman legions refused to come to Herod's assistance because of a personal grudge. After the emperor, Tiberias, died (Herod's benefactor), Herod was exiled (possibly murdered) by the next emperor, Caligula, because Herod refused to pay his nephew's Agrippa debt. Agrippa was the brother of Herodias and a benefactor and friend of Caligula. These events bring to mind the wisdom of Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Apply

7. Where do you think Jesus is calling you to serve?

Answers vary.

8. What is your story about Jesus in your life?

Answers vary.

9. Compare how the disciples spread the gospel spread during Jesus' day to how it is spread today where miracles are noticeably absent in our churches.

Miracles were proof that the claims of Jesus and the apostles were true so that people could put their faith in Jesus. Today, the scriptures replace miracles as proof of Jesus's claims. As I am more engaged in Bible translation, I see that God is still doing miraculous things to establish his church. Still, the primary outreach to new believers is through receiving the gospel in their language.

Closing Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Thank you for your blessings this day. We also give you thanks for the trials that might come this day. We pray that people would turn to you in their anxiety and need to find your peace and provision. We pray for your guidance and forgiveness. We pray that our love for Jesus and praise for Him are on our lips in our comings and goings.

Amen