

A Study of Mark – Lesson 15

Mark 6:7-13 Jesus Sends out the 12 Disciples

6⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, / he began to send them out / two by two / and gave them authority over impure spirits.

8 These were his instructions: / “Take nothing for the journey except a staff— / no bread, / no bag, / no money in your belts. /

9 Wear sandals / but not an extra shirt. / ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, / stay there / until you leave that town. / ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you / or listen to you, / leave that place / and shake the dust off your feet / as a testimony against them.”

¹² They went out / and preached / that people should repent. /

¹³ They drove out many demons / and anointed many sick people with oil / and healed them.

Vocabulary

1. **Repentance:** n. To change your mind, and then to fit your actions to the change. A change of heart should be followed by a change of action.
2. **Anoint:** verb transitive. (a) To rub oil or ointment on a part of somebody’s body, usually the head or feet, as part of a religious ceremony, for example, in a Christian baptism. (b) To install somebody officially or ceremonially in a position or office.

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Questions

1. Why did Jesus go from village to village? What were the disciples learning? What kind of schooling did the disciples have?
2. How do we know that the disciples of Jesus were literate?
3. Why would Jesus send the disciples out by twos instead of alone?
4. What did Jesus tell them not to take?
5. What did most disciples do with a “collecting” bag? What was the reputation of disciples who “collected” as they went? What is a “pious robber”?
6. What was the ancient duty of hospitality?
7. What does the idiom mean: to shake the dust off your feet?
8. What Jesus told them to do was unusual for the time. What did disciples generally do for their masters or their gods?
9. Can you define simplicity, trust and generosity?
10. What does repentance mean?
11. What happens when you do not have faith in yourself or in your children?

Notes

1. The Jew in Palestine generally wore five articles of clothing:

- The first was a tunic. It was made of a long piece of cloth, folded over and sewn down one side. Holes were cut in the top corners for the arms, but no hole for the head. That meant the garment was new. It allowed the buyer to arrange the neckline as he or she wished.
- The outer garment or cloak was a coat by day and a blanket by night. It was large, about seven feet from left to right and four and a half feet from top to bottom. One and a half feet at each side was folded in and in the top corner of the folded part, holes were cut for the arms to go through. There was usually a seam in the back. But the cloak or robe Jesus wore was one piece.
- Next came the girdle, or what we would perhaps call a belt. It was worn over the tunic and the cloak. The person could then pick up the hems of the garments and tuck them into the girdle or belt, and be free to run or work in the fields. Sometimes the tunic was hitched into the girdle and a hollow place was made for a package or parcel to be carried.
- Then there was the headdress. It was a yard square piece of cotton or linen. It was folded diagonally and then placed on the head so that it protected the back of the neck, the cheekbones and the eyes from the heat and glare of the sun. It was held in place by a circlet of easily stretched semi-elastic piece of wool wound around the head.
- Finally, there were sandals. These were merely flat soles of leather, wood or matted grasses. The soles had thongs on the

- edges through which a strap passed to hold the sandals on the feet.
2. The disciples were to take no bag. It may have been an ordinary traveller's bag. It could have been a food bag, but the Greek word used was *pera*. That can mean a collecting bag that priests and devotees carried to collect contributions for their temple or their god. If the first meaning is taken, it could have meant they were to take no supplies, but the second meaning would mean they must trust God for everything.
 3. Hospitality was a sacred duty of the East. It was the duty of the village to offer hospitality. If it is offered, take the hospitality. If not, shake the dust off their feet
 4. The mark of the Christian disciple must be utter simplicity, complete trust, and the generosity that is out always to give and never to demand.
 5. Verses 12 and 13 tell us that the disciple cast out demons. Remember that medicine was not the same as today. All sickness was said to be caused by demons, so the disciples healed as Jesus healed. Whether it was blindness or bleeding, the disciples cast out that demon and healed.
 6. Repentance means to change one's mind and then to fit one's actions to this change. It means a change of heart and action.

Information in this section comes from William Barclay, *The Gospel of Mark*, Daily Study Bible Series.