

Study Guide: Commissioned

Carter Sanger, Feb-10

Introduction

Read Mark 6:7-13.

- Can you think of a time (or two) that you allowed your children to help you do something that would have been much easier to do yourself? What was it?
- Why did you let them help you? Why do you think God chooses to include us in his mission?

I. Sent out...

The title “apostle” means “sent out ones.” While it was unique in one sense to Jesus’ 12 disciples, it is also a fundamental aspect of our nature. We naturally want others to believe the same way we do. Richard Dawkins is overtly evangelistic about his atheism. He says repeatedly, “I want to convert people away from religion to skepticism.” People discuss politics with the same zeal with regard to certain issues. For example, conservatives don’t just want to quietly embrace the traditional view of marriage, they want everyone to embrace it – to the point of wanting it legislated. On the other hand, liberals don’t just want to quietly practice their view of tolerance when it comes to religion, they want everyone else to adopt their same view of religious tolerance.

Jesus has been molding his disciples into “natural evangelists” for the work he is doing.

- Read Mark 3:14. Why has Jesus called them together?
- Read Mark 2:28; 3:11, 27; 4:41; 5:34, 41-42. What do these verses have in common? What is Jesus revealing to his disciples? How is this preparatory for going out?

II. Two by two...

- Read Numbers 35:30; Dt 17:6; 19:15; Mt 18:18-20. Why are two or more people required in these instances?
- How does this give insight to Mark 6:7 in terms of being sent “two by two”? What were the disciples sent out to bind?
- What kinds of things today need to be bound and condemned to prepare people for Jesus?

III. With authority

- What do the disciples have authority over according to verse 7? What does this suggest about Jesus’ mission?
- Do the disciples have blanket authority? What is the reach of this authority?
- How do we show our confusion over the authority that Jesus gives by many of our prayers requests? Should we be surprised when some of our prayers aren’t answered the way we expect?
- On the flip side, what should we expect when we go out according to the mission of Jesus?

Wrap-up

- How has Jesus’ authority made a difference in your own life?