

Travelling Light

Mark 6:6b-12

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷ 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.*

Discussion:

If you were facing a disaster and could only have 1 item aside from the clothes on your back and a pair of shoes, what would you bring?

TWO BY TWO

Jesus provides a practical spiritual model.

Community is absolutely necessary even in the smallest denominator.

Ecclesiastes 4

⁷ Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:

⁸ There was a man all alone;

he had neither son nor brother.

There was no end to his toil,

yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.

“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,

“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”

This too is meaningless—

a miserable business!

⁹ Two are better than one,

because they have a good return for their labor:

¹⁰ If either of them falls down,

one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls

and has no one to help them up.

¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone?

¹² Though one may be overpowered,

two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

We all need somebody, especially when we are on a mission.

This is one of the reasons why we have 2 pastors - That's the way Jesus sends.

AUTHORITY over Evil Spirits

We often focus on what they pairs of missional disciples do not have.

But the focus here is on what they did have - Authority

Do you know the meaning of Spiritual Authority?

It is unlike any other form of authority.

It does not spring from merely having charisma, influence, weapons or money.

It is God-given.

A Father has authority in his family.

This is misconstrued as control but it is not.

It is the right to speak into - to create - to author - to shape reality.

I am struggling in my learning of my authority at F3C.

What does it mean for me to have authority?

To create a place that isn't about survival but about love and grace?

A place of understanding, of struggle, of friendship and hospitality?

Indeed, we all as God's people are given authority for our mission

to transform the world.

Just A STAFF & SANDALS - No Food, No Money, No Bag, No Extra Clothes

In the 12th Century there was the emergence of mendicant religious orders.

Franciscans, Carmelites, Dominicans, Augustinians.

They all had a vow of poverty - and lived off the charity of others.

Of course such order, Christian or non-Christian can become corrupt.

They can become leeches on society, or hide their wealth.

But why did Jesus ask this of his disciples?

The mission of God is not accomplished by strength, influence, wealth,
charisma.

1 Corinthians 1-2

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

²⁰ Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our

righteousness, holiness and redemption.³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

The mission of Jesus is accomplished through our weakness and vulnerability. The first statement of a missional people is, "Can you help me." We minister to the world from a place of weakness.

STAY There

In a highly mobile world today few people stay in one place.

It is not estimated that a person between the ages of 18-35 will have had up to about 5-7 different jobs.

When Jesus tells his disciples to stay in one household when they enter a town He is actually saying to them to forge relationships.

Do you know why people skip from church to church or from job to job or from friend to friend or from relationships to relationship or from marriage to marriage?

They have never known true community, true friendship, true hospitality.

A place where they can feel safe rather than judged.

A place where they can be challenged to grow and face themselves.

A place of both truth & grace.

There are sometimes good reasons to go, but there are also bad reasons too.

To take on the principles of stability and faithfulness will shape you like nothing else.

We are to create places of stability

- churches & homes that are sanctuaries in the truest sense.

Shake the DUST Off Your Feet

This is not about rejecting others.

It is about the wisdom of not becoming entangled with those who reject you.

We are asked to love our enemies

- not hang out with them or be doormats for them.

There are people who are toxic for you.

There are people who cannot stay with you.

Jesus has a clear instruction.

To shake the dust from your sandals means Let them go.

They Preaching that People Should REPENT

Repentance gets a bad rap - it is often spiced with condemnation.

Real repentance is twofold.

Something is Wrong. - I'm going the wrong direction.

I want to make things right and go the right direction.

It is helping people clarify and understand the reality of God and his Kingdom.

It is about making meaning, creating awareness, speaking truth.

So we return to a vital word - Authorized.

Drove Out Demons... Anointed the Sick and HEALED Them

A disciple of Jesus is authorized to do what he commands you to do.

A false follower of Jesus cannot do what he does

because they do not really have his authority.

But what do you have the authority to do?

1. Drive out Demons

2. Heal the Sick

Fundamentally, we as God's people can deal with the spiritual realm

in a way no one else can.

This is why we pray.

Even when demons don't show themselves overtly we can pray against them.

When people are not only physically ill, but emotionally, psychologically,
relationally, broken, batted, wounded, ashamed

We have the authority, the responsibility and the ability to care for them.

We heal the sick not only by every means given us by God.

Jesus did not ask his disciples to just exist in the world.

He calls us to change the world.

Each of us who is a true disciple has a purpose in the here and now.

We have prophetic gifts and practical ones given by God.

What you have to ask is this: What am I being asked to do?

And then be willing to do it.

A Time of Prayer:

Share one need in your own life.

Share one person in your life you want to introduce to Jesus.

Pray for each other and your mission.