

## 荣耀的使命（上）—— 马可福音 6:7-13

### A Glorious Commission (Part 1) – Mark 6:7-13

#### *Introduction, outline*

- Scripture reading: Mark 6:7-13; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

Teaching text : Mark 6:7-13

7 And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits; 8 and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belt— 9 but to wear sandals; and He added, “Do not put on two tunics.” 10 And He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. 11 Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them.” 12 They went out and preached that men should repent. 13 And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.

- This is the first time the Lord Jesus sent the Twelve Apostles to preach. They don't understand the cross at this point, they don't have the full gospel message yet. But for the time being, their message was enough to save sinners. They know that the key of the Gospel is the Person of Jesus, the Messiah, who has come to fulfill God's plan to save sinners, and they also know that everyone has the responsibility to repent and believe. When the way of the cross is revealed later, they and those who receive their message will understand the complete gospel more clearly.
- If you know enough to be saved, you know enough to preach to others so they may be saved. If you're not sure what you know can save others, you may need to examine if you yourself are saved. Every Christian who knows he/she is saved has an unshirkable responsibility to preach the gospel. This is the great commission entrusted by the Lord Jesus to every Christian.
- Our work is in the same line with the apostolic mission. We can learn many principles on how to fulfill the Great Commission from this passage.
- Outline:

Title: A Glorious Commission

1. The environment for commissioning is teaching (v.6b )
2. The commissioned must work in company (v.7a)
3. The commission shows God's compassion (v.7b, v.13 )
4. The commissioned must trust God for their need (vv.8-9)
5. The commissioned must demonstrate contentment (v.10)
6. The commissioned must sense the eternal urgency (v.11)
7. The key message of the commission must be clear (v.12)

#### **The environment for commissioning is teaching (v.6b )**

- "He was going around the villages teaching": Teaching is the environment for fulfilling the Great Commission, and constantly teaching God's rich truths is key to Jesus' training of the twelve apostles. Teaching is not just imparting knowledge, but it is both by words and by

life, showing how to rightly apply knowledge. How Jesus lives, how He makes decisions, and how he deals with everyone are all part of His teaching.

【Note】 Today's education system completely downplays the importance of real-life teaching, as if all education can be achieved within the walls of a classroom. This is completely different from the kind of teaching we see in the Bible. The biblical kind of teaching is done in real-life situations, by words and by life. God's truth does not go from one head to another head by mere words, but it goes from one life to another life through all kinds of real-life situations.

【Application】 The best way for parents to ruin a child is to take him to church every week to receive the indoctrination of truth, and then go home and not live out the truth themselves. Children can easily become hypocrites under such "teaching".

### **The commissioned must work in company (v.7a)**

- “Send them out in pairs”: They need each other. Serving the Lord requires company. You can't be a lone ranger.

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10** “9 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if [e]ither of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not [d]another to lift him up.”

【Application】 Some people move to another place and cannot find the feeling of their previous church, so they just give up church life altogether. That shows they are followers of a certain church, not of the Lord. Doing so violates many biblical principles, one of which is the importance of companionship in serving.

### **The commission shows God's compassion (vs.7b, vs.13 )**

- "Give them authority over the unclean spirits": not only to cast out demons, but also to heal the sick (cf. Matt. 10:8). This is the authority of the Lord Jesus, which proves that the apostles are the authentic messengers of Jesus himself. At the same time, it also gives a foretaste of the complete healing believers will have when the Kingdom arrives.

【General principle】 1. Their message comes from God's authority; 2. It shows God's love and mercy.

【Application】 1. Be firmly grounded in the Bible. Our authority comes only from the Bible; 2. When preaching the gospel, we must imitate God's loving and compassionate heart: be sympathetic to people's sufferings, be willing to listen, sincerely care, and provide practical help when we can.

### **The commissioned must trust God for their need (vv. 8-9)**

- "Take nothing...but to wear...": Bring nothing but the bare necessities of life. This isn't a packing list for missionaries today, the point is: trust in God's provision and protection, and don't worry about tomorrow. The specific list here is exactly the same as the packing list for the Israelites when they left Egypt (Exodus 29:11). God's saving work always follows the same themes. Back then, God led the twelve tribes out of Egypt with this simple outfit to enter the Promised Land; here God leads the twelve apostles to preach with the same outfit, leading people out of sin and into the kingdom of heaven.

**Deuteronomy 29:5** "I have led you forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot."

**【General Principles】** When God's servants do God's work according to God's will, they will never lack God's supply.

**2 Corinthians 9:8** "8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;"

**Philippians 4:19** "19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Not one single Christian who faithfully serves God will ever complain that the word of God has failed me that He has not supplied all my needs. God will provide us with everything we need to serve Him. It was true for the apostles; it is still true to us today.

### **The commissioned must demonstrate contentment (v.10)**

- "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town": Don't think this house is not good enough so that you want to move to another place. This is God's provision for you. Don't be picky.

**【General Principles】** Contentment. Be content with God's provision. A strong faith in God's provision will surely bring about a heart of contentment.

**【Application】** When do you know you aren't trusting God enough? Often it is when you start to feel dissatisfied with God's provision, and start to find fault and complain this isn't good and that isn't good. If the apostles were picky about where they lived and moved around while preaching, the listeners would wonder: Do they really believe the message they preach? Do you really believe that God will provide for all their needs? Are their minds focused on eternal things or on the comfort of this life?

### **The commissioned must sense the eternal urgency (v.11)**

- "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you...then shake the dust off the soles of your feet...": Shaking dust off one's feet has to do with cultural background: When the Jews go to a Gentile place, they'd stomp off the Gentile soil as they leave as an expression that even the soil of the Gentiles is not fit to enter the kingdom of God. The apostles did this to remind his listeners that there are serious consequences for rejecting their message!

【General Principles】 The seriousness and urgency of the gospel message. It concerns everyone's eternal destiny. Our purpose is not just to help people live well in this life, but to help people know that their eternal destiny depends on how they respond to this message.

【Application】 If we preach the gospel and all they hear is how to live well in this life, maybe we need to reflect on whether our preaching is clear enough.

### **The key message of the commission must be clear (v.12)**

- "Preaching that men should repent": Repentance only makes sense because Jesus Christ has completed the work of redemption so we can be forgiven and accepted by God. Otherwise, our repentance will only affect this life, and will have no effect whatsoever on eternal judgment. But because of the salvation of Jesus, our repentance has an eternal effect, so repentance is exceedingly good news. Sinners who do not have the gospel can only regret but cannot change. They only have endless remorse without any hope of being forgiven or accepted by God.

【Principle】 Those who truly know the gospel know what a precious gift repentance is! The gift of repentance enables us to face our sins honestly, to come before God without any pretense, and to receive the cleansing effect of the precious blood, which cleanses our consciences tainted by sin. So repentance is at the heart of the gospel, and that in itself is wonderful good news!

【Application】 The way to preach repentance is not to scold people arrogantly, and to ask them to confess all the shameful things they've done. The most important key to preaching repentance rightly is to live a life of continual repentance. As you live in continual repentance, you will see what a wonderful grace repentance is, and then, with real joy and enthusiasm, you preach the assurance of forgiveness through repentance which leads to a life of continuous sanctification and eternal hope.

### ***Summary***

*"Jesus sent the twelve disciples here, and he sent them at a time when their knowledge of Jesus was still so lacking. This left a powerful testimony for Mark's readers and Christians throughout history: **the fulfillment of the word of God' depends not on the perfection or merit of the missionaries, but on the authoritative call and equipping of Jesus!**" - a scholar*

*The Lord Jesus has called us by His sovereign will, and He will continue to equip us and use us! Gospel ministry is His work, and it is also the most glorious mission He has given to us! Are you willing to give your life to this glorious mission?*