

# Talk Notes

Title: Mark 6:6b-13

Meeting: Freshwaters

Date: 04/09/2016

## Introduction

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Today we are looking at the passage immediately after Jesus rejection by the family friends and relatives in Nazareth, His boyhood home. We are going to look at the passage from the perspective of Jesus, of those early disciples and of us today.

### Mark 6:6b-13

## Jesus continues teaching

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What is Jesus reaction to the rejection He faced? He didn't sulk, He didn't give up on people, instead he went to the surrounding villages and continued to teach. Although Jesus was amazed at the people's unbelief and although He was restricted in the miracles He could perform, yet still Jesus continued to preach. Moving away from the centre of town He went through the villages. Probably encountering many of the same people, but in a smaller context where there was more opportunity to teach.

## Sending out His 'ambassadors'

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In **verse 7** Jesus calls together His 12 disciples and began to send them out 2 by 2. The Amplified bible has in brackets 'as His ambassadors' which I really like. An ambassador has no power or authority in their own right, but has great power and influence in that they represent a greater power. The disciples were sent out to represent Jesus and as His representatives they had both power and authority.

## Looking from Jesus perspective.

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Now let's take a look at this missionary adventure from Jesus point of view first of all. Why did Jesus decide to send out the disciples in this way?

- He could reach more people through the disciples than He would be able to reach on His own
- He took away the 'personal' element of the offense people had taken on by having someone else communicate the message
- He was training the disciples for the work they would continue after His death and resurrection

- He was demonstrating to the disciples and to all the people – this is something bigger than just me.
- He was teaching His disciples about faith.

### Looking from the perspective of the disciples

Let's take a look at this missionary adventure now from the perspective of the disciples. What do you think they were feeling and thinking when Jesus commissioned them, when they were out in the villages without Jesus and then after they had seen the positive results?

- Initially very apprehensive, it was the first time that they did what they had seen Jesus do.
- Jesus was not making it easy for them, it was a real test of faith and obedience.
- Perhaps they were a bit confused about why they needed to do things in this way
- Nervous not just about how well they would be able to represent Jesus to others, but about where they would stay and what they would eat.
- Grateful that they were not going out alone but had someone with them.
- At the first village, will they accept us? What will we say or do? What happens if we try to heal or deliver someone and nothing happens? Don't want to let Jesus down.
- As they began to see positive results perhaps they were excited, pumped up in faith, possibly proud, hungry for more.

### Looking from our perspective

Finally I want to take a look at this first missionary adventure of the disciples to see what we can learn about our own missionary adventures.

The first thing to say is that there is no mention of mission as a gift and that there is no office of missionary given to the church, why do you think that is?

- All are called to mission, not for special 'missionaries'

What is our mission then?

- **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- **Mark 16:15-20** And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and

they will be healed.” When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honour at God’s right hand. And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs

- **Luke 24:46-49** And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’ You are witnesses of all these things. “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”
- **John 20:21-23** Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”
- **Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Where is our mission field?

- Family
- Friends
- Work Colleagues
- Everywhere the Lord send us.

Are there any exceptions to this call to mission?

- Only one – when the early disciples were told to wait for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has now come – there are no more exceptions.

What lessons can we learn from that first missionary adventure that might help with ours?

- Two by two, not alone, so we can support and encourage one another but also complement one another and balance one another
- Jesus gives us authority over the works of the devil
- It is a journey of faith not of material reward
- We can accept hospitality from those who receive us.
- There will be some who reject us our job is not to argue to persuade them ultimately they will answer to God not to us.
- We should have a message of repentance and returning to God.
- We should anticipate healing and deliverance to be part of our missionary adventure.

## Conclusion

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Like us the early disciples will have been nervous, a bit baffled and excited by the prospect of their missionary adventure, but as they responded with obedience and faith then they became more and more excited about what God was doing through them.

We are not an exception to the call for mission. I deliberately placed the order of the disciples' response as obedience then faith. It is great when we are full of faith about something, but sometimes we just need to respond in obedience and the faith will come later.

Let's get excited again about mission, let's recognise our mission field and let's be obedient in playing our part – then we can share the joy the disciples felt at seeing God at work