

**March 31, 2019**

**Mark 6:7-13, 30-32 – Sends**

### **Introduction**

The disciples have been following Jesus for some time now. They have seen many miraculous events and heard Jesus teach on several occasions. When Jesus first called them, Mark states that He “appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach, and to have authority to drive out demons” (Mark 3:14-15). In today’s text, the disciples are given the opportunity to put into practice what they have been learning. Jesus sends them on their first missionary journey.

**Sent by Jesus (Mark 6:7).** Have you had the opportunity to go on a short-term mission trip? Do you remember how you felt as you prepared to go? Perhaps you were nervous as you thought about traveling to another place. It is highly likely that you were also extremely excited about your journey. The text for this week’s lesson begins by noting how Jesus sent His disciples on their first missionary journey. As they prepared to go on their first journey, Jesus had some very specific instructions for them to follow. Jesus, first, sent them out in pairs (Mark 6:7). While Mark does not state this specifically, from a practical standpoint, this was certainly a strategic move. Traveling in pairs would provide fellowship, accountability, encouragement, and support as they journeyed. Second, based on what we learn from Mark 3, Jesus “gave them authority over unclean spirits” (Mark 6:7). This would be critically important as the disciples ventured into different regions.

**Equipped by Jesus (Mark 6:8-11).** In addition to the statements given in Mark 6:7, Jesus gave other instructions to his disciples. He told “them to take nothing for the road except a staff” (Mark 6:8). At first glance, this seems like a strange request: take nothing? Would they not need food? What about money? Jesus knew they would be provided for. This is implied in His statement in Mark 6:10: “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that place.” Knowing this, though, the disciples would still be walking by faith at this point.

**Empowered by Jesus (Mark 6:12-13).** Mark’s description of the disciples first missionary journey is not lengthy, but it is telling. Three key components are described. First, the disciples preached “that people should repent” (Mark 6:12). This was basically the same message that both John (Mark 1:4) and Jesus (Mark 1:15) preached. Second, Mark noted that “they drove out many demons” (Mark 6:13). This demonstrates that fact that Jesus had given them authority to cast out demons. Third, the disciples “anointed many sick people with oil and healed them” (Mark 6:13). This statement gives further testimony to the fact that the power of God was present and manifest in the lives of the disciples.

**Resting with Jesus (Mark 6:30-32).** After their missionary work was completed, the disciples give a report to Jesus (Mark 6:30). Certainly Jesus would have been interested in what had taken

place during their journey. Besides giving a report, Jesus knew the disciples needed something else, too, rest (Mark 6:31). He invited them to “come away by yourselves to a remote place and rest for a while.” Even disciples of the Lord need rest.