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Disciples Called and Sent!

Lesson Text: Mark 6:4-13; Luke 10:1-24

Focus Verses: Mark 6:7, 12-13 - ⁷And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; . . . ¹²And they went out, and preached that men should repent. ¹³And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

Truth About Covenant: Jesus grants us His authority when we live in covenant with Him.

Covenant Context: Jesus sent out seventy faithful followers to work miracles as He worked through them. Jesus was giving us a glimpse into what covenant relationship looks like when He empowers and sends us to do His work for His glory.

We are called to minister in what some may consider Satan's territory. Since humanity broke covenant with God in the Garden of Eden, Satan has been working as the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). Yet, we are called to minister to those afflicted by sin, because of how devastating it is on humanity. However, God has not sent us in the world unprepared or ill-equipped; He has given us the power to take back enemy strongholds and bring the kingdom of God into what once may have felt like the kingdom of Satan.

Both Gospels of Mark and Luke record that Jesus sent His twelve disciples out, along with other dedicated followers (Luke 10:1), to do ministry He had taught them to do. Jesus was entrusting these faithful followers who had committed their lives and resources to the kingdom of God and empowering them with His power and authority to work miracles. The seventy sent followers did not send themselves; Jesus sent them. He gave them His power and He gave them authority to use it for His glory. When Jesus sent out the seventy, He provided specific instructions (Mark 6:8-9). As the seventy soon learned, not everyone welcomes the gospel. Jesus understood and warned them in (Mark 6:11). Jesus intended to involve more people, showing that ministry is not about hierarchy but responsibility. Jesus' rewards faithfulness.

When the disciples acted in His name, they wielded divine authority over evil and illness, showcasing the transformative power that comes from being aligned with Jesus Christ. We are responsible for living according to God's Word. When we do, we honor and glorify God. In return, God graciously saves, protects, provides for us--benefits we are not worthy of. Our relationship is deeper than mere contract because it is rooted in God's deep love for us. Jesus let the seventy know just how blessed they were (Luke 10:23-24). That is the power of covenant relationship. Jesus gave them the grand news (Luke 10:20).

God does not just call us, but He bestows us with the authority we need to act in His name. We may have the power of God within us, but we must remain vigilant and seek spiritual guidance, patiently waiting for God's direction to show us how we should utilize the power He has granted us.

When we hear the call of God and go where and when He sends us, we go in divine power and authority. The interplay of obedience and empowerment reveals the beautiful covenantal relationship we share with God. He empowers us, creating a mutually beneficial bond. He uses us, He builds our faith, and He gets the glory. Our obedience and His power are essential; together, they make us strong against the enemy. If you feel powerful, it is because you are living in alignment with God. If you don't, ask God to help you choose to obey Him.

Ministry is about responsibility, not the power of a select few. While some have greater responsibilities, no one is superior to another. God gives us diverse gifts for His glory, not ours. Although we all have these diverse gifts, the Spirit produces the same fruit in all our lives (Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus highlighted that covenant relationship is not elitist, unlike the religious leaders of His time who were vying for power and prestige. Covenant relationship is built on faithful obedience.

Remember, miracles are not for entertainment or self-promotion. Ministry results are not platforms on which to gloat or grandstand. The working of miracles is born out of God's deep compassion for humanity. God is moved with compassion by people's needs, and when we respond with compassion and faith in God's power, we have a recipe for the miraculous. Jesus is attracted to faithful obedience, and when we respond when He calls, one day we will receive something far more valuable: the words "**Well done.**"