



Over the past few weeks, we have been following Jesus as He has been spending time with both Jews and Gentiles. We have discovered that He chose to deal with people in a way that ministered to them individually rather than a “one size fits all” kind of approach to ministry and healing. This week we will take a look at Jesus sending out the twelve “on their own” (not devoid of the Spirit) but without Jesus being with them directly. Let’s take a look at how He “commissions” them to do ministry.

Luke 9

*“And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”*

Luke 9:1-6 ESV

This particular time it is just the 12 that Jesus is sending out. Sort of the A-team of the followers of Jesus.

What Jesus asks of His disciples:

- Follow and know Him (Luke 5-8) (do a quick review of these chapters hitting some highlights)
- Rely on His power (9:1) How do you find yourself relying on God’s power in your daily life?
- Accept His game plan (9:2) proclaim the kingdom of God and heal (He did not empower anyone to call an audible) – notice that the message is about the Kingdom and not about their individual take on things that are happening in culture. What are some ways that you share about the Kingdom of God?
- Trust His provision (9:3-4) rely on the hospitality of those you visit; no extra tunic - we plan and try to cover all the bases but that requires faith - What do you worship? (That which you cannot live without). Do you find it difficult to just trust and rely on God about having everything in place before you launch out in “obedience”? What might you need to let go of to more fully trust?
- Shake off the haters (9:5) when met with criticism, scoffing, etc. -let it go and move on. (Stay focused on the game plan.) Notice that this is not a “thumb your nose” kind of response. It is simply, let it go and move on. Do you find it difficult to just move on when you have been wronged or misunderstood? Notice that Jesus instructed them to stay on point about the message of the Kingdom. (Maybe if we stay on topic, we can more easily not take everything said to us or about us so personally.)
- Get in the game. (9:6) Whatever next step you need to take, take it.

This was preseason exercise before the Great Commission that we find in Matthew 28.

Our response

Follow, grow, proclaim, heal and repeat

- Follow Jesus (on Sunday mornings, community groups, Bible study, daily time in the Word, etc.)
- Grow in your faith or in the absence of your faith. We are growing in one way or another – either toward God or away. There rarely is in idle, middle ground.

- Proclaim the good news – What do you believe to be the Good News! How would you proclaim it in daily, regular conversation?
- Heal - proclaim the truth of the gospel and allow the Spirit to bring about healing. Remember that the Spirit is the One who brings about healing in lives.
- Repeat

It is time to get in the game.

A reminder about the “process” here at Friendship.

Everyone is welcome.

At some point, people will have the desire to grow.

People will make an effort to grow and trust God with their lives.

How about we choose to focus on these things as Christ-followers

- Preach the gospel
- Heal - trust in God to bring about salvation and sanctification
- Shake off the haters - stop fighting everyone and every battle

James 5:16 confess your sins to righteous people.

Take time for prayer requests and spend time praying together. As you guide the prayer time, you might want to ask these questions and give time for people to pray and answer these questions privately.

Are you growing?

Are you proclaiming?

Are you sharing healing?

Are you shaking off the haters?

Are you trusting God’s provision?

Encourage your group to pray for one another this week.