

*Then Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Over the last 25 years as a minister of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, God has given me the privilege to minister to a lot of different types of people. Some are Simon Peters who learn best through failure and trying again. Others are Andrews who learn best by keeping their mouth closed and listening the first time. Some have thunderous personalities like James and John and would gladly call down fire from heaven if allowed to deal with evil and unrighteousness. Others, like Matthew, have no issue in letting mercy lead because they live in the mercy extended to them. In those 25 years as a minister of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, God has also allowed me to Preach the Word in a lot of unique places. Some have been environments conducive for making disciples and equipping the saints, like right here at the Genesis Church of Vero Beach. Others have been environments that have required me to say "here I stand. I can do no other." Just this past week, God saw fit to allow me to preach in Capernaum, the very place where James, John, Simon Peter, Andrew, and Matthew once became Fishers of Men. He also allowed me to preach on the same road in Jerusalem where Jesus walked as a prisoner and Simon Peter denied the Him three times.

But, church, I want to tell you this morning that there is one question that has been on hearts of every follower of Jesus Christ in every place that I've ever been, whether in Vero Beach, FL or Jerusalem, Israel. It's not the question of how to be saved. For the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ know that Jesus rose from the dead and that by believing in Him they can have life in His name. It's not even the question of how to read the Bible or how to give joyfully as unto the Lord. Instead, it is this one: How do I know, understand, and then do the Will of God? I've concluded that people ask it for two reasons: (1) They want to please the One who saved them. And (2) they do not know how to go about doing it. If that was you yesterday, it is today, or will be tomorrow, then today's message is for you. Here's why: The disciples had been with Jesus in Galilee and the surrounding region. They had learned from Him, though "what" they had learned they were unsure of. Jesus knew the day was approaching when the disciples would no longer have the privilege of His physical presence. As a result, he gave them a trial run on what it means to know and do the will of God. It wouldn't last long. But it would last long enough to have to depend on God through the experience. And it wouldn't be the complete mission. But it would be enough for them to know what pleases God and how to go about doing it when their time had fully come after the ascension.

It's the first Christian mission trip ever recorded in the Bible. And today, I invite you to take your Bibles and turn to Mark 6:6-13. You'll soon see that this passage occurs where it does in Mark's Gospel for a reason. It is this: knowing and doing the Will of God is often never easy. But, as disciples of Jesus, it was the only safe place to be. That's still true for us today. For in this passage of Scripture, Jesus teaches us exactly what pleases Him and how to go about doing it. In short, He teaches us how to know and do the Will of God. Let's read together.

*Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.<sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.<sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.<sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra shirt.<sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.<sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."<sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent.<sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.*

### Knowing and Doing the Will of God

#### 1. How It's Discerned (6b-7a)

- **There Once Lived a Man Who Could Barely Speak** — (1) Fortunately, he lived as a prince in a palace. (2) But, unfortunately, he left the palace for a place he'd never been after he committed a murder: the wilderness. (3) It was in this wilderness, this arena of discomfort, where he discerned the will of God from a burning bush. (4) God raised Moses in a palace to speak and use him in a desert.
- **Main Idea of the Point:** The will of God will always be discerned in arenas of discomfort. For it's in these arenas of discomfort, God begins to apply practically what you've learned beforehand personally.
- **It's discerned in arenas of discomfort:** In the passage just before this our Lord gets rejected in his hometown of Nazareth. In the passage just after this, John the Baptist gets his head served on a platter. Yet, between the rejection and the danger, came the directive. That's often the environment God chooses to tell us what he wants us to do.
- **It's discerned by applying practically what you've learned already from Him personally:** The word "calling" here is important because it's a word in the language of the New Testament where the action starts in the past and continues into the present and future. They had been in the classroom with Jesus, listening to Him and watching Him. Now it was time for a practical apprenticeship. And like every

apprenticeship, it would involve successes and failures. New experiences became God's laboratory for further spiritual development while also fulfilling the mission.

## 2. What It Requires (7b)

- **Nurses and Shots** — (1) One profession I never really considered seriously is the medical profession. Reason being, I don't like receiving shots and wouldn't like giving them. (2) But if you ask a nurse authorized to give shots, I'm sure they all remember the first time they gave one to a real human being. (3) They didn't feel ready. But the Physician thought otherwise.
- **Main Idea of the Point:** The Will of God will always require faith not just from the followers of Jesus, but from Jesus as well.
- **It required Jesus to take a risk because he had to trust the unqualified:** The disciples' behavior thus far was well short of exemplary. They didn't understand his teaching in the Parable of the Sower (Mk 4:10). They lacked trust that God would protect them on the Sea of Galilee (Mk 4:40). They lack the perception required for ministry as evidenced by their unawareness of who touched Jesus' robe (Mk 5:31). But they are still sent out, albeit in pairs, to teach, heal, and exorcise. That required Jesus having a faith in them they didn't even have in themselves.
- **It required the Disciples to take a risk because they had to trust Jesus even though they were not qualified:** As a way of helping them through this, Jesus sent them out in pairs. By going in pairs there was opportunity for mutual encouragement. If one was discouraged, the other could encourage to carry on. But Jesus paired them in twos because that was the minimum number of witnesses the law required for a matter to be confirmed. They were to act, preach, and heal like the Messiah had come. And having two witnesses was important for this. And each pair had to trust Jesus to be His witness

## 3. How It's Accomplished (8-11)

- **Mission Impossible:** (1) Your mission, Mr. Hunt, should you choose to accept it is to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Should you be caught or killed, the Secretary will self-destruct in five seconds. This tape will self-destruct in five seconds. (2) With Jesus, our mission is possible because of the One who called.
- **Main Idea of the Point:** We accomplish God's Will by obeying His directives knowing full well that the mission is possible, not impossible, because of the One who has called.
- **It's Accomplished By Trusting God's Work Done God's Way Will Never Lack Supply:** Notice in the text that the disciples were allowed only what was on their backs and on their feet. And perhaps a walking stick. Why? Because Jesus wanted to teach the 12 to rely on Him for supply of every need. They were to be content with what He provided.
- **It's Accomplished by Seeing the Positive Fruit that Comes from Doing the Will of God:** Jesus told them that whenever they entered a house, they were to stay there until they left that town. In the Ancient World, guests were protected by the owners at all costs. That implied there would be those who would be so welcoming of the message that they would look after and care for the messengers.
- **It's Accomplished By Seeing the Negative Fruit that Comes from Doing the Will of God:** Jews shook the dust off their feet after they left Gentile lands so as not to pollute the "Holy Land" when they returned. Jesus took this custom and flipped it on its head. If a Jewish region rejected their message, the disciples were to treat them as pagans. For to reject Jesus is to reject the God of Israel. This was also a sign they were doing something right, not just the positive.

## 4. What It's Designed to Do (12-13)

- **Onward Christian Soldiers** — (1) Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle, see His banner go. (2) That hymn captures the essence of what the Will of God is designed to do: Walk forward under the power of His might, regardless of how qualified we feel to be on the front line. For the battle belongs to the Lord.
- **Main Idea of the Point:** There is a battle that rages in our world between the powers of light and darkness in the highest of places. It will always be the desire of God to be victorious over darkness. And it's God will for you to experience that victory personally, just like it was for the disciples.
- **The Unqualified Disciples Took a Risk and Obeyed and Experienced Victory Over Darkness:** The next teaches us that they drove out demons and healed many people from various diseases. God took 12 unexemplary individuals and marched them right into darkness so that they, by the power of Jesus, could emerge victorious. They wouldn't have otherwise.
- **Jesus Took a Risk and Called Them and Used Unqualified People to Advance the Light of the Gospel in the World:** Jesus would later pin His hopes for all of humanity from that point forward on these 12 individuals. And all but 1 would pass because Jesus believed in them as much as they believed in Him. For the sake of the call. Glory be to God.