

Luke 9v1-9 – The apostles sent out to preach

The apostles had been with Jesus. They had heard his words. They had seen his deeds. They were witnesses of his glory. Now it was time for them to take the word to others!

1. Jesus sent out his apostles to preach (v1-6)

Jesus teaches us so that we can change and show others the way also. The light must shine out! As the Father sent him, so he sent out the apostles. Jesus was not to remain in body upon the earth. He is now present by his Spirit in his people. The kingdom goes forward through those who believe. In Matthew 28 he told us to “Go” - that is the church's task. The apostles could have made excuses; they were young as disciples; they would make mistakes; they had much to learn – but Jesus sent them and he sends us. The apostles were sent to preach God's kingdom. The kingdom of God is where God puts things right again. It is his rule upon the earth. It begins in the hearts of those who believe, and spreads out into their lives and communities and into the nations. The kingdom is to be preached. It goes forward when God sends out men to declare and proclaim that Jesus is the Lord. Have you yet come back under the rule of God? Have you repented? Jesus gave the apostles authority to perform signs. These were to prove that their message was true; it was a new message for the world. It was also to illustrate the message; showing how Jesus brings life and healing for the soul. These were signs to prove that these men were truly God's chosen apostles, to lay the foundations of the church.

Jesus also told them how to go. They were to go trusting completely in God to provide for them. They would learn that it was always enough to trust God. They were not to look around for comfort and rewards, but to be happy with God's supplies. It would be very good for the church if all preachers and believers had that same heart today, and were not greedy or grumbling.

Jesus also told them to warn people. If their message was rejected, they must show people that they were in great danger. People who reject Jesus are unclean in God's sight, and ready for judgment. There will be no escape.

2. Herod heard the reports of Jesus' ministry (v7-9)

King Herod heard about what Jesus was doing. Perhaps he heard from Chuza (Luke 8:3). When God's servants are faithful, they do not need to worry about who listens – even kings will hear the news somehow! The news troubled Herod. He had killed John the Baptist, but now he was hearing of more preachers who spoke the same things. Though John was dead, Herod's conscience was alive. We cannot escape God's word – the only thing to do is to obey it. People did not know who Jesus was – but they would have known if they had listened and repented. Herod wanted to see Jesus; but Jesus did not come to him. Though he was a king, Jesus did not have time to waste with people who did not wish to obey. God's word is not for entertainment, but to save our souls. How have you received it?