

Luke 9:1-6 – You Walk

Introduction

When we read this passage in Luke, we see the disciples being sent out by Jesus. As disciples, they were convinced that anything they saw their rabbi doing, they were also learning how to do. A discipleship wasn't just about lifelong learning for their minds, but learning for their lives.

And so when Jesus sends them out, they went out believing that the same power and authority they see in Jesus would be with them. It meant that they would go in faith and confidence to be as Christ – for Christ. They represented Him.

For us, we often read this passage and assume that this sending out was only for the disciples. But Jesus calls us to be sent out too! (Matthew 28:19-20) All of us are in our jobs/homes/schools because God has sent us there as his disciples. Like the disciples, we go to our new occupations/locations with very little and then depend on those places to provide finances and support for us. And for the places that reject us, we move on to a new opportunity. It also means that we have a responsibility to be God's power and authority in that place.

The practical demonstration of that power and authority is a battle won by prayer – by daily praying for our coworkers, patients, clients, cases, projects, supervisors, line managers, etc. We are asking God to work powerfully in their lives – proclaiming good news & healing people everywhere.

Luke 9:1-6 – You Walk

Warming Up

1. How did you get into the job/school/situation that you're currently in? What's the back story and how did you make the decision to go there?

Into the Passage

Read Luke 9:1-6

2. Jesus gives the disciples “power and authority.” What's the difference between power & authority?
3. Can you think of an example of someone who has power, but no authority? How about someone with authority, but no power?
4. Why is it important that Jesus sent them out with “power & authority.” What if he had just sent them out with one (power or authority).
5. Jesus “sent them out.” The word in greek is *apostello* – it's going out as an official representative with authority. Have you ever been sent out as an official representative with authority? Can you think of an example of someone who has?
6. Jesus tells them to “take nothing for the journey.” Why?
7. What's the significance of each of the items Jesus says “staff, bag, bread, money, shirt/tunic?”
8. What is shaking the dust off the feet a symbol of? Why do you think Jesus asks them to do that?
9. What was the purpose for the disciples to be sent out? Can and should we have that same perspective for ourselves?

Moving Forward

What must have the disciples been thinking when they were sent out by Jesus? Giddy with excitement? Confused about the exact plan of action? Courageous and confident to represent Christ? I'm sure most of us feel grossly inadequate to be sent out by God – for us to move forward how do we walk on the path of discipleship?

10. What does it mean to be sent out by God? Do you think you are sent by God? Why or why not?
11. When God talks about power & authority, what does it mean to have his power and authority in our lives? What is it power and authority over?
12. How do we exercise the power and authority, and for what purpose? In your current job/life/education how can you demonstrate God's power and authority in those situations?
13. How can you proclaim the good news and heal people everywhere?
14. What things can you do to be a disciple of Jesus?

Life Together

The heart of this passage is realising that our battle isn't about flesh and blood. We are actively engaged in spiritual warfare – and are sent out as disciples of Christ in that battle. These battles are won by prayer and faith.

How do you think you ended up where you are now? If you are a disciple of Jesus, this is the place you are called to minister. But as many of us are overwhelmed with the work, perhaps we are called to pray for one another, pray specifically for the situations of those around us.

15. Share some of the difficulties you have in your current work/school situation. Pray for God's power and authority to be evident in your life.
16. Share the situation of someone in your school/workplace (don't have to use their name), and pray with God's authority and power for His good news and healing to be in their lives.

Luke 9:1-6 - Some Leader's Notes

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes. Don't place too much focus on them, and let the Bible study discussion lead primarily from the passage itself.

Into the Passage

Read Luke 9:1-6

2. Jesus gives the disciples "power and authority." What's the difference between power & authority?

Power is about the strength or ability over something.

Authority is about the right or legal control over someone.

3. Can you think of an example of someone who has power, but no authority? How about someone with authority, but no power?

A boxer has more power than a referee. But the referee has authority.

4. Why is it important that Jesus sent them out with "power & authority." What if he had just sent them out with one (power or authority)?

With Jesus the power and authority go hand in hand. The authority means they are sent out as representatives of Christ. Had they try to cast out a demon without God's authority, the demon would may not have listened. But going out with God's power and authority gave them to ability and right to represent Christ.

5. Jesus "sent them out." The word in greek is *apostello* – it's going out as an official representative with authority. Have you ever been sent out as an official representative with authority? Can you think of an example of someone who has?

6. Jesus tells them to "take nothing for the journey." Why?

Jesus has them going by faith. Also to demonstrate that the battle isn't about material, or flesh and blood – but the spiritual life. He wants to let them trust Him to lead and to provide for them. I also think that they also discover the power of the good news – that as they go out and share, they discover how God's love transforms people.

7. What's the significance of each of the items Jesus says "staff, bag, bread, money, shirt/tunic?"

Staff - (probably an extra staff, just in case) Jesus is saying you don't need anything extra, trust his protection and leading

bag - the things they carry, their belongings

bread - provides their needs, daily sustenance

money - God provides their wants

shirt/tunic - their protection

It reminds me very much of how God gave his manna to the Israelites, and then told them to gather as much as they need, but no more. God is saying here to trust Him completely. (Exodus 16)

8. What is shaking the dust off the feet a symbol of? Why do you think Jesus asks them to do that?

It's a symbolic act practiced by Pharisees when they leave an unclean area. Here it also reflects a warning to those rejecting God's message. Jesus tells them this so that they can move onto the next place freely – without reject or disappointment.

I think for many of us it's hard to do that. Instead we'll be like Lot's wife (Gen 19), looking back with longing, regret, or desire.

9. What was the purpose for the disciples to be sent out? Can and should we have that same perspective for ourselves?

To proclaim the kingdom of God, the good news and to heal others.