

Luke 9: 1-6 NIV

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ³ He told them: “**Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt.** ⁴ **Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town.** ⁵ **If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.**” ⁶ So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

1. Luke is on a mission to show us who Jesus is

- a. From the detailed history of His birth
- b. To His early childhood and encounters
- c. To His teachings on the foundations of the faith

- d. Then he gives real life examples of what faith looks like
 - i. Jesus’ mastery over the elements - storm
 - ii. Jesus’ mastery over demons
 - iii. His mastery over sickness – woman with issue of blood
 - iv. His mastery over death - raising of the young girl

2. In Ch. 9, Jesus calls the disciples to Himself

3. He’s ready to send them out on their first assignment of ministry

4. **With this commission to the 12, timeless principles are mentioned**

I. Preparation

II. Provision

III. Precaution

I. Preparation

1. Preparation is key for everything in life
 - a. Education
 - b. Business
 - c. Ministry is no exception
 - d. That was the point of walking with the 12 for the past year
 - e. It's all part of the preparation
2. He's also preparing them for what ministry will look like after the Resurrection
 - a. After rising from the dead, Jesus said:
 - b. **Acts 1:5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
 - c. **Acts 2, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit**
 - d. Luke 9 is a picture of that future day
 - e. Before going out and serving the Lord, He called them to Himself
 - f. **Each disciple needs to spend personal time with Jesus**
 - i. **To capture His heart for them personally**
 1. To strengthen that personal relationship
 - ii. **To capture His heart for the lost**
 1. God loves people and wants to save them from their sins
 - iii. **Be filled with the Holy Spirit**

1. Allowing God to empty us of ourselves and fill us with His power
2. Giving God total control
3. **This is to be our priority**

g. This is God's idea and it comes in stages:

- i. Sitting at His feet & learning from Him
- ii. Capturing His heart for us & others
- iii. Being filled by His spirit
- iv. Duplicating what He does

3. It's His idea to use weak people to reach weak people

a. Disciples cannot remain observers forever

- i. They receive in order to give
- ii. They learn so they can teach
- iii. It's time for them to put their faith into action

4. **Genuine faith has corresponding action**

a. Real faith is like good seed planted

- i. You only know the seed is good because of the fruit
- ii. The fruit is not for the tree, but for others

b. If they are Jesus' disciples, then they'll need to do what Jesus did

- i. Faith is not just to help me live a better life

- ii. God's plan is to use disciples to serve the hurting the way Jesus did
- iii. This is the balance that we are to have
- iv. Sitting at Christ's feet & serving others

5. **Now they are ready to go out**

- a. There is nothing special about the 12
- b. He could have used angels or appear Himself in person
 - i. In His wisdom and providence, He opted to use broken vessels to reach broken vessels
 - ii. This gives us hope that God wants to use the ordinary among us

6. Part of this preparation is learning to do things together

- a. Jesus send them out in groups of two
- b. **Some of these pairs were so different in personality**
 - a. There is beauty in the variety

7. Doing ministry / life with others is protection for you

- a. We all have times when we fail and stumble
- b. **Ecc 4:9** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up

8. **Nothing brings more joy to God's heart than to see unity**

- a. **Psalm 133** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity

- b. Genuine unity in ministry / life indicates a heart in the right place
- c. Unity is a natural outcome of sitting at Jesus feet
- d. Being in tune with Him = being in tune with those around me
- e. Unity ushered in the day of Pentecost (Acts 2)
- f. **Who are you doing life with?**

II. Provision

1. They received a provision of authority over demons
 - a. There is the natural progression
 - i. Unity with Christ, sitting at His feet
 - ii. Unity with other believers
 - iii. Unmatched authority over the enemy
 1. He has no foothold on your life
2. With this authority given, every demon in hell has to bow down and submit
3. Understanding that this authority is given to believers will:
 - a. Encourage you to engage and set people free by using that authority
4. God wants to use His children to set the captives free
 - a. As a child of God, this authority is available to you
5. Some believe that ministry is for the professionals
 - a. Acts 6, Stephen was one who served tables.
6. **They were sent with a dependency on God (Vs. 3)**

- a. Don't take an extra staff, money, 2 tunics
 - i. A staff was for the terrain & protection
 - b. Don't take any more than what you normally take
 - c. God Himself is your provision & protection
 - i. He will provide
7. **Money:** Learn to trust God as the only and ultimate provider
- a. Your own resources are not sufficient for this trip
 - b. The Lord will pay for what He orders - Hudson Taylor
8. It's critical to learn this lesson in the onset of ministry
9. For us in a real practical way, Jesus is saying don't be concerned with money or possessions, clothing or anything else on this journey of life
10. Simply rely on God who will take care of you
11. **1 Kings 17:5** [Elijah] So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook
12. Relying on your own ability or resources is a failing proposition
- a. Paul learned it:
 - i. My God shall supply all your needs...
 - b. David learned it:
 - i. I have been young...
13. They were sent with an attitude of contentment
- a. Only the wealthy had 2 coats
 - b. It's not time to flash your abundance
 - c. Humble yourself like Jesus to relate to everyone
14. The trend of our day is having an abundance and showing it

15. **Whatever home invites you in, stay there (vs. 4)**
 - a. Don't look for the wealthiest most comfortable place to stay
 - b. Go to the open home and stay there
 - c. I can miss the important lessons God has in the tight places if I'm moving around looking for comfort
 - i. **Paul:** I've learned to be content
16. They were sent to show the heart of God - COMPASSION
17. Jesus gave them the same authority that He had
18. Cast out demons & heal the sick & raise the dead
19. As a believer, you have the authority to cast out demons and lay hands on sick people for healing
20. The benefit is for the hurting and lost
21. We can show a heart of compassion by praying for them
 - a. Speak life over them
 - b. Encourage them in any way possible
 - c. Reveal the heart of God

III. Precaution / you will face opposition

1. **Not every home will receive you (vs. 5)**
 - a. Not all people will embrace this message
 - b. Go and proclaim salvation
 - c. Go and preach the gospel
2. God wants to reveal His heart to His people

- a. Many think God is angry with them - NOT TRUE
 - b. God brought disease on them - NOT TRUE
 - c. People blame God for the challenges in their life - GOD IS INNOCENT OF ALL EVIL
 - d. People think they can live any way they want to and hopefully get to heaven
 - i. NOT TRUE - Repent and turn to Christ
3. **Not all who hear your message will receive it**
- a. Don't blame yourself or get depressed
 - b. It's normal
4. Shake the dust off your feet and walk away
5. Peoples acceptance or rejection is not your confirmation of ministry
6. **Luke 6:26 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you**
- a. Human measurements are not the best
 - b. Don't give up and be faithful with what you've been given
7. They went out and preached that people should repent
- a. Many were healed and delivered
8. We are aiming that God would use us the same way
- a. Preparation – Looking at Jesus & being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - b. Provision – God will provide what He calls us to
 - c. Precaution – Realize that rejection is going to happen, but we're to step out in faith and pray for the sick and share the gospel with the lost
9. As we're watching the disciples and what God is doing in their lives

a. God wants to do the same in ours