

## MARK 6:6b-7

## SENT OUT

*Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.*

Unlike the typical master of disciples, Jesus called the Twelve in order to send them out. While it is possible to conclude that all disciple-makers have in mind extending their teaching over time, in particular, after they were gone, Jesus is interested in the dissemination of his message over space, during the here-and-now. The Disciples were sent. They were called to him so that he could teach them and he sent them out into the world with his message. He sent them out not only with his message to proclaim, but also with his authority to demonstrate the validity of his message.

John Stott, in his book, *The Living Church*, wrote that, *the church is a people who have been both called out of the world to worship God and sent back into the world to witness and serve* (p.52). As the Twelve lived and were taught by Jesus, we have been called to learn about God through his self-revelation. That is the main reason we come together to worship. By remembering who God is and what he has done, we learn about God and ourselves relative to God. But we do not do this in order to be a holy enclave, but rather to be equipped and encouraged to take this knowledge out into the world. We are a sent people. It is God's will that his self-revealing message of Truth be disseminated throughout the world, and he has chosen his church as the vehicle for its spread. Our mission is to announce and demonstrate the message and purpose of God to the world.

**As you call, Lord, so you send. Help me to faithfully gather with your people to learn more about you and your purpose for my life. Give me the courage to allow you to scatter me to where you call me in order to spread your message to those who need to hear. Allow me to see myself sent even if it is in place; to my family, friends and co-workers. Give me the faith to know that you provide all I need to accomplish what you have called me to do. Amen.**