

FOLLOWING THE SERVANT KING ON THE DUSTY TRAIL

(Mark 6:1-13)

Being a follower of Christ automatically includes being a messenger for Christ. We will face people, some whom we never expected, that will lack faith. What are the principles for following Jesus in the midst of others who don't believe?

I. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST EXPECT DIFFICULTIES ON THE TRAIL (vv. 1-6)

1. As was His custom, Jesus addressed His teaching in the synagogue.
 - The people were amazed at his teaching and astonished at His miracles.
2. Then a growing contempt crept over them.
 - They did not celebrate His success but chose to discredit Him.
3. Here is a word of caution: While familiarity with Jesus will not diminish His divinity, there is a danger in letting familiarity dull us to the spiritual demands of our faith.

II. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST ARE AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED AS MESSENGERS (v. 7)

1. Jesus commissioned the Twelve, giving them instruction and authority.
2. Every single time God called anyone in the Bible to a task, He empowered them and authorized them to do it.
 - Whatever God calls us to do in His church, whenever God opens the door to tell about the love and salvation of Christ—He empowers us and gifts us to do it.

III. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION (vv. 12-13)

1. The disciples carried something far greater than gifts and authority. It was their message.
2. Their real work was to announce to a sin-sick broken world that God loved them.
 - Luke says they proclaimed the kingdom of God.
 - They were announcing how to enter the kingdom of God. That's still our message!

IV. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST DEMONSTRATE DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD (vv. 8-10)

1. Time to pack—Jesus gave them instructions on their luggage and their lodging.
 - These instructions remind them that they must not be encumbered. There is an urgency.
2. If they were only taking the bare essentials, then they would have to be dependent on Jesus.
 - They had to go in faith or their message would be unbelievable.

V. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST MAY EXPECT SOME NEGATIVE RESPONSE (vv. 5-9)

1. Jesus told them that some would not listen, so “dust off your feet.” They could not control people’s response. Their only job was to share God’s message and show God’s love.
2. You will experience rejection but God’s work through you is often more successful than you know. You can depend on Him to give you strength and courage.