

**Date** : 27 July 2025

**Topic** : Dealing with unbelief

**Key Passage:** Mark 6

**Key Verse** : He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the twelve to Him, He began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. Mark 6:6-7

Jesus calls and equips every believer to be a servant, to be with Him, following Him, learning, observing, and being trained before finally being sent out. A learner is one who learns in order to be prepared to be sent forth to serve.

The four areas of service are preaching the gospel, teaching His commands, casting out demons and healing the sick.

**Key Word: Send out**

‘Send out’ is an outward movement (*apostello*). Servants are to:

**1) Step out in faith to do what He has done.**

**2) Trusting God for fruitfulness** - Experience the same outcome as Jesus when they exercise imparted authority.

**Step Out – Going out with faith**

Even when we know Jesus has called us to reach out, many of us hesitate - not because of external opposition, but because of something subtler: spiritual inertia. This is the resistance to move forward, fuelled by fears - fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of not knowing enough, or not having enough. It’s the voice that says, “What if I’m not ready? What if I mess up?” These fears keep us rooted in our comfort zone — a place of spiritual stagnation.

In Mark 6, when Jesus sent out the Twelve, He did not go with them physically — yet they went, because He had given them His authority. They had exercised ‘going out’ faith that overcame the pull to stay safe. Faithful servants must step out in obedience when they are sent. They must go in His authority and power.

**1. We set out with the full awareness of:**

*And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two. Mark 6:7*

- **Our Identity:**

We are sent out as servants of the Most-High God: We go as His representative — ambassadors and witnesses to the world.

- **Our Privilege:** We are chosen to participate in His great work on earth.

- **Our Purpose:**

We are sent out so that the world may:

- Know Him through our preaching and teaching about Jesus.
- Experience healing – to heal the hurting and set the captives free.

- **Our source of Power:**

- His presence will go with us – “I am with you always...” Matthew 28:20
- His authority to confront and overcome the devil. Mark 6:7
- His Holy Spirit empowers us to receive power to be His witnesses anywhere.  
*Acts 1:8, Mark 6:7*

## 2. How should we set out:

### a) Put aside all encumbrances and distractions

*Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts.*

*Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. Mark 6:8-9*

- We must be dependent on His provisions and His help.
- Stay single-minded and focused on the mission, without drifting off course or being distracted by personal inadequacies.
- Not be overly conscious of our lack.
- Dependence test:  
Serve without waiting for ideal conditions — step out in faith and trust God to handle new situations, instead of being held back by fear of insufficiency.

### b) Trust God for fruitfulness

#### By staying on course – Test of ‘going on’ faith

*Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them. Mark 6:10-11*

#### i) Stay if welcomed

Do not be led by emotions, act according to how people respond.

#### ii) Move on, if rejected

*And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you... Mark 6:11*

- Servants will face rejection - but preach the Word anyway.
- Servants must not take rejection as a personal offense. Neither must the offence of others be allowed to affect our service. Just shake the dust off your feet and move on.
- Even the Lord Himself faced offence:  
In His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus taught in the synagogue, but the people took offense at His familiar background: *“Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son...?” Mark 6:3*
  - Familiarity breeds contempt – preconceived identity of Jesus led to rejection.
  - Jesus did not retaliate, argue or force acceptance. Instead, He continued His mission, going around teaching in other villages. He did not allow their offense to deter or derail His calling.
  - In the same way, treat rejection as a routine issue and not to lose heart over it.

#### iii) Not be intimidated by suffering, persecution, hostility or danger

Facing persecution, hostility and danger

Proclaiming the truth can invite opposition, hostility and real danger.

Servants must stand firm and be prepared to suffer for the Lord because the eternal reward far outweighs any cost we pay. It may be costly, but the Master who sends us is worthy. The Lord warned that those who shrink back are not worthy of Him.

- When Jesus returned to Nazareth, He had proclaimed He was the Messiah, but His own people responded with hostility and tried to throw Him off a cliff.  
*Luke 4:16-30.*
- In Mark’s account, it is recorded that they did not honor Him. *Mark 6:4*
- Even John the Baptist faced death for speaking the truth about Herodias.

### c) Look for the man of peace

*Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town Mark 6:10.*

Aggressive arguments rarely win people over, but genuine seekers respond differently. Pray for open doors; build bridges for the message through cordial conversations. The gospel has the power to overcome unbelief.

- **Build trust by staying connected**

This reflects commitment and genuine care. People usually like the messenger before they embrace the message.

- **Your presence matter** - let people see Christ through your personal presence, showing through everyday actions and words spoken in season.

### d) Two are better than one – Servants must team up

*.... send them out two by two ... Mark 6:7*

For unity and support - like husband-and-wife team, cell leader and member, or two members coming together.

- Eg when casting out demons, one can pray while the other discerns. One may speak with authority, while the other intercedes in the Spirit. Two aligned in faith and united in prayer guard against discouragement and invite God's power to move.

### e) Outcome: Expect seasons of harvest

*.... they ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick ... to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went .... all who touched his cloak were healed. Mark 6:53-56*

When we fail to sow, we guarantee a lack of harvest. But if we persevere, we shall reap. People in Nazareth doubted Him, yet elsewhere multitudes desperately sought Him.

- Miracles and healings took place when multitudes came running from every village to Him. People brought their sick and begged to touch even the edge of Jesus' cloak. Many were healed.
- Only servants who persevere will see such results.

When we go out in His authority and refuse to quit despite discouraging responses – *our 'going on' faith* opens the gateway to an abundant harvest.

### Applications:

- 1) Where do you fear most to step out in faith to witness and share the gospel? ☐  
How would the two-by-two principle help you overcome that fear?
- 2) When rejected, what practical steps can you take to stay faithful to your calling? ☐  
(Maybe try again with someone else or another group).
- 3) What has the Lord provided for His servants' success in the work of preaching, teaching, healing and casting out demons? ☐