

• *A third mission tour*

**1. The apostles' ministry involved destroying the works of Satan**

*(i) Miracles and deliverances are for today*

*(ii) Yet modern Christians are not on the same level yet!*

• *We look for more but we must not over-claim*

**2. The apostles' ministry involves the preaching of the kingdom**

There is now **another tour of Galilee**. We have seen one in Luke 4:42–44 (Mark 1:35–39), and another in Luke 8:1–3. This third mission (Luke 9:1–6), in early AD 32 perhaps, is undertaken by the apostles alone.

1. **The apostles' ministry involved destroying the works of Satan.** The disciples are sent out to extend the mission of Jesus. They are given power and authority over demons and over sicknesses, and they are sent out to preach the powerful reign of God and to heal<sup>□1</sup>. What is the relevance of such commands today? Does the Christian Church have authority to cast out demons? Do we heal the sick?

□1 9:1-2

(i) **Miracles and deliverances still take place.** There is no reason to confine Jesus' great and mighty power to New Testament times. His power remains the same. Satan can still be defeated. Sicknesses may still be healed.

(ii) Yet, **modern Christians must not pretend they are experiencing power on a level with what happened in New Testament times.** The story of the Church is not ended yet! There may come an age in the Church which is even greater than that of the first generation. But meanwhile we must not make false claims. So far, no one seems ever to have had anything near the power that Jesus and the apostles had. Jesus healed directly with a word or with a touch. Jesus' miracles were instantaneous. On one occasion when He had a reason for performing a miracle in two stages, both stages were instantaneous. The healings were always complete. The miracles were dramatic rather than trivial. A severed ear was instantaneously replaced. Limbs were instantaneously repaired. Organic diseases were instantly banished. There is no known case where there was a relapse back into the sickness. A whole village could bring its sick and everyone would be healed. Jesus on one occasion stopped a funeral and raised the boy whose funeral was taking place. A man who had died several days previously was raised after being buried in a tomb. No one has a track record like that!

Jesus' command to His apostles points our faith in the right direction. God gives miracles of deliverance and gifts of healing but the authentic miracles are only present in small measure – at the moment! We look for more but we make no claims until they are obviously justified. The miracles of Jesus' day were indicators of His authenticity, samples of what Jesus can do for us, parables of what He is able to do at a deeper level, and they are foretastes of the resurrection. Since the Church is commanded to do all that the apostles did<sup>□1</sup> we may look to God to bless us in this way, but we must not over-claim. Certainly the basic character of our work is the same: we are called to destroy the works of Satan.

□1 Matthew 28:18-20

2. **The apostles' ministry involves the preaching of the kingdom.** The Greek word 'preach' in this verse<sup>1</sup> means 'to proclaim' or 'to do the work of a messenger speaking out a message in a central place where the people are to be found'. It is not quite the same word as 'teach' which refers to the detailed explanation of a largish quantity of skills and information.

### 3. A life of simplicity

- Take what they had

- Supplies along the way

- Instructions would change later when they went outside Israel

### 4. A simple base to work from

### 5. The apostles should not be troubled by rejection

- The basic character of these instructions still apply

3. **The apostles' ministry was accompanied with obvious simplicity of life**<sup>1</sup>. They were not to go with a vast quantity of supplies, provisions and luxuries. They should not give the impression that being involved in Jesus' mission to Israel was a highly enriching business. They were to take just what they had and to look for God and His people to help them along their way. They were to take nothing for the journey. They were not to acquire a spare purse or a new purse.

The point of these instructions was that the apostles were to live simply, in dependence on God and on His people. They may take what they have but should take nothing **extra** because Jesus would see that they were given sufficient supplies along the way. No new staff should be obtained. No new sandals should be obtained. No new money bag should be acquired.

This does not mean they should not take staff or sandals or purse at all! Mark's account makes it clear that they were allowed to take what they had including a staff. But no new sandals or new equipment were to be bought. The apostles were to be ordinary people with ordinary supplies; God would maintain them. These instructions would change later in Jesus' ministry when they were sent **outside** Israel. But at this point when they are being sent to God's people, they may expect God's people to be a means of supply to them.

4. **The apostles should make a simple base for their work wherever they went.** 'Whatever house you enter, stay there'<sup>1</sup>. It means that when someone offered them hospitality they should make that place their base. It would give a false impression and be excessively tiring to stay in one home after another in the same area.

5. **The apostles should not be troubled when they are rejected**<sup>1</sup>. If they discover that in a certain place they are unwelcome they are simply to go elsewhere. They leave behind the dust of their shoes to testify that they were there! This language is playful. It is a way of saying that they have discharged their responsibility and need not be troubled any further.

These instructions were followed by the apostles<sup>1</sup>. Although not every word is literally applicable to the modern Christian, yet they still retain much wisdom and the basic charge remains the same: we are to destroy the works of Satan and announce that God's royal power is here!

**Note**



1. The word is *kerusso*.

<sup>1</sup> 9:3

<sup>1</sup> 9:4

<sup>1</sup> 9:5

<sup>1</sup> 9:6

		<p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible</i> (PTTB) books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p>	
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