

“He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.” Mark 3:14-15 NIV

lectio // Mark 3:13-19

Early in Mark's manuscript, he wants the reader to know, that Jesus not only had authority over EVERYTHING, but he gave that authority to others. Now, things didn't always work out so easy for the disciples/apostles at first (see Mark 9:18), but I'm sure they got better at it. Maybe they had to grow into their title/authority? At first Jesus just told them to FOLLOW, but now he is also asking them to go out and start sharing (preaching) and kicking demons out of humans. They didn't quit following though. They followed (learned) and exercised their newly appointed authority (work). Do you think they just started instantly acting holy and bold? I don't think so. Maybe that's how it works with you. Maybe James and John (sons of thunder) came out swinging, but I'm hoping the others were more, you know, normal. Watching Jesus, listening and trying to figure out what it means to BE an preachy, demon-kickin apostle. Jesus always made it seem so natural, almost like he looked forward to it! That must be what "convergence" feels like. When your past, present and future begin to synchronize and make sense. That's what Bobby Clinton wrote in "The Making of a Leader." Convergence, hmmm, like a purpose driven life. You have to follow and move forward (work) for things to make sense. Experience seems to be no more than the sum total of my stupidity!

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,
In 2016 I wanted to fail MORE. In 2017, 2018 and 2019 you answered that request. Three years of wrong turns, extreme stress and the best part, daily humiliation (NOT humility). There were instances, moments where I was learning to lean in, to listen to you. There were crazy acts of obedience, doing awkward things and not knowing the "why." Was this learning? It was so hard on my soul. That was experience? It took me years to FIND my voice, and now I have to practice on how to use it? I used to think that things got easier as I got older. Everything that may look easy took years of work!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root