

“And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits. He told them to take nothing for their journey except a walking stick—no food, no traveler’s bag, no money.”
Mark 6:7-8 NLT

lectio // Mark 6:6b-13

“Alright, now GO out and do what I said and what I did! You’ve got everything you need to be a disciple.” Basically, this is what he told his team. You’ve listened, you’ve seen, so now you’re ready. He sent them off totally equipped with nothing but their wits! They did not even have the empowerment of the Spirit they would receive later. They just had Jesus’ name to use and the authority to use it. Jesus did not want them dependent on anything else but what they had heard and seen - we know they didn’t learn that much because Jesus had to keep explaining the parables to them. He also didn’t want them to lean on the normal supplies of a traveling speaker... stuff like food, a murse and money (just for snacks). I can guess here, Jesus wanted them completely dependent on him for their power and learning that side of faith and their eventual dependence on others, that God would bless to supply their physical needs. He added, “oh you can wear sandals, but no extra clothes.” They couldn’t carry them anyways. Do I, in any way, live the kind of life that I am completely dependent on God to lead, direct and empower me AS WELL AS complete dependence on others to care for my physical needs, like eating, sleeping and wearing pants? I know this may not be the life that God has called everyone to today, but can you see the radical process of becoming a follower of Jesus? No wonder I have so little faith and no wonder I spend way too much time and money on STUFF! There’s something else here. Discipleship is a lifelong learning process, but not necessarily a lifelong pursuit of studying! Jesus sent them out with ENOUGH. They knew very little but when they had to use what little they knew — POW, real learning took place.

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

Dad,

I must keep up with this one fact. I love learning your word, but I must, must, must continually be applying it and giving it to be a true follower. I do not just want knowledge of your word I the power and authority of your word to be used to advance your kingdom and do your will!

contemplatio

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