

## Luke 9:1-6, (with Luke 9:1-11)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus called the Twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and power to cure diseases. <sup>2</sup> And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. <sup>3</sup> “Take nothing for the journey,” He told them, “no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no second tunic. <sup>4</sup> Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that area. <sup>5</sup> If anyone does not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that town, as a testimony against them.” <sup>6</sup> So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

<sup>7</sup> When Herod the Tetrarch heard about all that was happening, he was perplexed. For some were saying that John had risen from the dead, <sup>8</sup> others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that a prophet of old had arisen. <sup>9</sup> “I beheaded John,” Herod said, “but who is this man I hear such things about?” And he kept trying to see Jesus.

<sup>10</sup> Then the apostles returned and reported to Jesus all that they had done. Taking them away privately, He withdrew to a town called Bethsaida. <sup>11</sup> But the crowds found out and followed Him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and He healed those who needed healing.

Berean Study Bible

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### Harmonisation context

Events	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Without honour in Nazareth	13:53-58.	6:1-6		
<b>Sending out the Twelve</b>		6:7-13	<b>9:1-6</b>	
<b>Herod hears of Jesus</b>	14:1-2	6:14-16	<b>9:7-9</b>	
Recap: John's execution	14:3-12	6:17-29		
<b>Twelve return and report</b>		6:30	<b>9:10</b>	
<b>Jesus and Twelve withdraw</b>	14:13	6:31-32	<b>9:10</b>	6:1
<b>Crowds follow Jesus</b>	14:14	6:33-34	<b>9:11</b>	6:2-4
Feeding 5,000	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17	6:5-15

Only Mark and Luke record this sending out of the Twelve. Only Mark adds that they went out in pairs (Mark 6:7).

Only John provides a time link. “The Jewish Passover Festival was near.” (John 6:4). Passover fell on Saturday 17 March 29 AD. Two-and-a-half years of Jesus’ ministry were past. Only one year remained.

The duration of the mission is not given. The disciples were given instruction to remain as guests in the one home until they moved to the next location. This suggests that their mission lasted anywhere from a couple of days to a couple of weeks. It must have been of a set period because they returned to Jesus and departed together by boat.

The departure, and regrouping, location is not stated, but after they returned to Jesus, they sailed “to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee” (John 6:1), to near “a town called Bethsaida” (Luke 9:10). This town is a little way inland from the northern shore of the sea. Therefore, the base of operation for the mission was on the far shore, meaning the southern shore of the Sea of Galilee. From that point they would have easy access into all the territory of Herod Antipas in both Galilee and Perea.

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1

### **Maturity equals responsibility. Luke 9:1-11**

Accepting the things that are my responsibility. 9:1-6

I have more resources than I can ever use. 1 “Jesus... gave them”

I face more needs than I can ever meet. 2 “proclaim... heal”

I have more opportunities than I can ever accept. 4 “whatever”

Allowing the things that are not my responsibility. 9:7-9

I can be excited by the Gospel, but I can’t control another’s emotions. 7 “perplexed”

I can be true to the Gospel, but I can’t control another’s thoughts. 7-8 “some say”

I can be clear about the Gospel, but I can’t open another’s eyes. 9 “But who is this”

Accountability for things that are my responsibility. 9:10-11

Keep coming back openly to Jesus. 10a “returned and reported to Jesus”

Keep withdrawing privately with Jesus. 10b “away privately... withdrew”

Keep learning deliberately from Jesus. 11 “welcomed them and spoke”

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2

### **How to be in, but not of, the world. Luke 9:1-11**

How we relate to the world. 9:1-6

Care for the whole person. 1-2 “demons... disease... Kingdom”

Care for the whole world. 3-6 “wherever... everywhere”

How the world replies to us. 9:7-9

We will leave people perplexed. 7 “he was perplexed”

We will be regarded as from the past. 8 “...of old”

How we retreat from the world. 9:10-11

Stay engaged with the Lord. 10 “...to Jesus ...away privately”

Stay engaged with the world. 11 “welcomed them and spoke...”

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### **Inversion parallelism. Luke 9:1-6**

- A<sup>1</sup> Spiritual and physical healing. 1
- B<sup>1</sup> He sent them out. 2
- C<sup>1</sup> Take nothing with you. 3
- D<sup>x</sup> Stay in one house. 4
- C<sup>2</sup> Take nothing with you. 5
- B<sup>2</sup> They set out. 6a
- A<sup>2</sup> Spiritual and physical healing. 6b

This is God's inspired word. Therefore, it is all profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Then, in order to be practical, we need to prioritise.

A<sup>1</sup> and A<sup>2</sup> are the most peripheral aspects of our ministry, because they are from the Lord and not from within us. B<sup>1</sup> and B<sup>2</sup> are important because this is our obedience to our Lord's commands. C<sup>1</sup> and C<sup>2</sup> are reminders not to count anything of this world (good C<sup>1</sup>, or bad C<sup>2</sup>) as something to cling onto. D<sup>x</sup> is the heart and core. The success of everything else is built around this centre. Be focused. Stay engaged. Don't be distracted.

D It's about the other person, not me.

C It's about the ministry I bring, not things I bring.

B It's about the Who I represent, it's not about me.

A It's about how I, with God's help, might help. It's not about me.

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3

### **Go forth, Come first. Luke 9:1-6**

Go forth in urgency. 9:1-2

Jesus gives us who we need. 1 "Jesus called together"

Jesus gives us what we need. 1 "He gave them..."

Jesus sends us where we need. 2 "He sent them out to..."

Go forth in simplicity. 9:3-4

Don't worry about possessions. 3 "take nothing"

Don't worry about locations. 4 "whatever house"

Don't worry about reactions. 4 "not welcome... leave"

Go forth in sincerity. 9:5-6

Be firm. 5 "shake off the dust"

Be flexible. 6 "So they set out"

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4

### **I can make a difference. Luke 9:1-6**

I can make a difference in the spiritual realm.

I can make a difference in the physical realm.

I have got what it takes.

I already have peace. Philippians 4:7

I already have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor.2:16

I already have forgiveness of my sins. Eph.1:7

I already have the promises. 2 Peter 1:4

I already have permission to come boldly. Heb.4:16

I already have the spirit of power, love, self-discipline. 2 Tim.1:7

I already have every spiritual blessing. Eph.1:3

It happens here and now. 9:4-5

I have already begun. 9:6

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5

### **My mission. I choose to accept it. Luke 9:1-6**

Use themes, graphics, music inspired by *Mission Impossible*.

Look at what I've got. 9:1-2

I've got great resources. 1 "Jesus gave them"

I've got great responsibilities. 2 "He sent them out"

Look at what I lack. 9:3

I lack the world's possessions. 3 "*nothing* for your journey"

I lack the world's processes. 3 "*take* nothing"

Look at where I am going. 9:4-5

I am going into the unknown. 4 "whatever"

I am going into the uncertain. 5 "if"

Look at what I am doing. 9:6

I can start from here. 6 "set out"

I can make progress. 6 "went from... to..."

Look at what God is doing in our lives, now. But we can't put this moment on hold. Life won't wait while we decide if we want to be part of it or not. Am I making a difference in people's bodies and souls?

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6

### **Am I seeing the whole picture? Luke 9:1-6, 10**

Charismatics love the power and the glory of "He gave them power and authority..."

Evangelicals love the Word-based "...preach the Kingdom of God" Sacramentalists love the poverty, chastity and obedience of "...no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic."

Fundamentalists love the decisiveness of "shake the dust off your feet".

#### Wholistic content. 9:1-5

I have spiritual resources. 1 "He gave them power and authority..."

I have personal responsibilities. 2 "He sent them out to..."

I have practical requirements. 3-4 "take nothing"

I have emotional resilience. 5 "...not welcome you, leave..."

Am I utilising all the resources God gives to me? We are fully blessed in order to fully bless.

#### Wholistic clientele. 9:4-6

I choose my location. 4 "whatever house you enter"

I choose my destination. 4 "...leave that town"

I choose my progression. 6 "from village to village"

ie. to every demographic. It is easy to be drawn to people who are just like me; or to those who provide what I lack (opposites attract).

Focus: "...people everywhere." Not tasks, not policy or procedures. People!

Who do I value, ignore, fear? Jesus didn't ask for specialists.

#### Wholistic care. 9:6, 10

I action my Mission. 6 "The set out... proclaiming ...and healing"

I action my priorities. 6 "proclaiming" before "healing". As per v1 and v2.

I action my accountability. 10 "returned ...and reported"

We set the wrong dichotomy if we think in terms of Mission vs Margin. The real balancing act is Soul and Body.

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## 7

### Here are the keys to the Kingdom. Luke 9:1-6

#### The power and the glory 9:1-2

I have delegated authority. 1 "He gave them power and authority"

I have specified responsibilities. 2 "He sent them out to..."

#### The cost and the commitment 9:3-6

I am utterly dependent. 3-4 "Take nothing"

Give bad news to those who don't want the Good News 9:5-6 "shake... proclaim..."

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## 8

### Touching Heaven, changing Earth. Luke 9:1-6

#### Connect with the heavenly 9:1-2

I have Heaven's authority. 1 "He gave them power and authority"

I have personal responsibilities. 2 "He sent them out to..."

#### Disconnect from the earthly 9:3-6

Discard personal tools. 3 "Take nothing"

Decide I do have enough. 4 "whatever house... stay..."  
Dispel false expectations. 5 "If... unwelcome, shake the dust"  
Declare there is something better. 6 "proclaiming... healing"

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9

### **Creating successful teams 9:1-6**

Good team makes better individuals (9:1a) Good individuals don't always form a good team.  
Am I a team player? Am I building team? Do the others in my team call me a team player?

Give them authority and responsibility 9:1

Big authority: "he gave them power and authority"

They knew what this looked like because Jesus appropriately modelled it before them

Big responsibility: "to drive out all demons and to cure diseases"

They knew what this looked like because they have been sufficiently trained

Most uplines give responsibility but not authority. ie. fear of being redundant, irrelevant, lose control

want to keep team members in subordinate, dependant position.

Healthy teams, inc. team leader, are independent individuals, functioning interdependently.

Give them freedom within parameters 9:2

Unspecified freedom: "he sent them out"

Let them be creative. Let them innovate. Let them think laterally. Let them out of the box.

Specified parameters: "to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

Clear, specific, and minimal, outcomes and assessment criteria

Give them focus and flexibility 9:3-5

Prioritise to minimise: "Take nothing for the journey" - uplines fail to provide support / to deliver

Focus on immediacy: "Whatever house you enter, stay there

Create disappointment "If people do not welcome you, shake their dust off your feet"

So they did it, and it worked 9:6

"they went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere."

Be open to what is offered 9:1b

We are surrounded by talent.

Jesus hasn't finished with you. He is offering...

What is the next step for me; for us?

Having privilege = having responsibility 9:2

If we are giving some responsibility, we need to also acknowledge it with some privilege.

Responsibility often means giving blame.

Expect responsible behaviour in self and others. "If... then..."

Focus on mission, not on self. 9:3-4  
Would I still work here if I had to take a pay cut?  
Is my focus on what I get, or on what I give?

Set clear boundaries 9:5  
Be clear about who is in and who is out. We are all on a journey

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10

### **How will you handle this? Luke 9:1-6,10-11**

Jesus told them *what* to do, not *how* to do it.

Jesus gave them two tasks. 2 “proclaim the Kingdom... heal”  
They completed the two tasks. 6 “proclaiming the Good News... healing”  
Jesus does the same two tasks. 11 “spoke about the Kingdom... healed”

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### **Other possible titles**

I can change the world!  
You can make a difference.  
We’re here to change the world!  
What are you doing here?  
You are destined for greatness!  
On a mission from God (Blues Brothers movie)  
What just happened? Luke 9:7-9

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### **Quotes and illustrations**

“He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.” Friedrich Nietzsche

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“If you have a strong purpose in life, you don't have to be pushed. Your passion will drive you there.” Roy T. Bennett

“Because God is never cruel, there is a reason for all things. We must know the pain of loss; because if we never knew it, we would have no compassion for others, and we would become monsters of self-regard, creatures of unalloyed self-interest. The terrible pain of loss teaches humility to our prideful kind, has the power to soften uncaring hearts, to make a better person of a good one.” Dean Koontz, *The Darkest Evening of the Year*

"I want to live my life in such a way that when I get out of bed in the morning, the devil says, "O no, he's up!" anonymous

"If you want to identify me, ask me not where I live, or what I like to eat, or how I comb my hair, but ask me what I am living for, in detail, ask me what I think is keeping me from living fully for the thing I want to live for." Thomas Merton

"We must realise that whatever happens to us is a resource. All things have been given to us for a purpose. All that happens to us, including our humiliations, our misfortunes, our embarrassments, all is given to us as raw material, as clay, so that we may shape our heart." anonymous

"Life is filled with unanswered questions, but it is the courage to seek those answers that continues to give meaning to life. You can spend your life wallowing in despair, wondering why you were the one who was led towards the road strewn with pain, or you can be grateful that you are strong enough to survive it." J.D. Stroube

"Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd." Rumi

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## Music and songs

### Songs about God's power for change

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow  
Crown Him with many crowns  
For the might of Thine arm we bless Thee  
Immortal, invisible, God only wise  
Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord  
O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all...  
O Thou who camest from above  
Thine is the glory, risen conquering Son

### Songs about making a difference

Go forth in His name  
God forgave my sin in Jesus' name... Freely, freely  
I love to tell the story of unseen things above  
It's about the cross  
Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war  
Pass it on  
Send me out  
Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to Thee  
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
The Light  
Touching heaven; changing earth.  
You and I... heart to change the world. Psalty

You can touch Him

#### Songs about the Holy Spirit

Father, Father of all things, (v3, Spirit) SiS 275

Holy Spirit come, 779

Let the Spirit in, 88

Spirit song, 477 "Oh, let the Son of God enfold you with His Spirit..."

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#### Complementary readings

Psalm 40:1-9 "...He lifted me ...He set ...He gave ...He put ...I desire..."

Ephesians 1:3-12 "...He blessed us ...chose us ...predestined us ...gave to us..."

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#### Children's message

You are changing. (Show baby photos – now different.) You can change what is around you. (Put a chair in the way – take it out of the way.) As you keep on changing, you can change from doing bad things (sin, confession) to becoming a better person (more like Jesus).

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#### Prayer meditation

...brought light out of darkness; from chaos to order; ...changing me

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#### Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. If power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely, why did Jesus give the Twelve any power and authority (v1)?
2. In verses 1, 2, & 6, spiritual matters are always listed before physical matters. What explanation can you give for that? Give one practical application of that principle.
3. How would you have felt with v2 as your marching orders? How would you have felt with v3 as your marching orders?
4. Update v5. How can we convey the meaning of this verse in a 21st century context?
5. Verse 6 tell of the obedience of the Twelve, but verse 7 changes the topic, and we are not told whether they were "successful" or not. Why do you think we are not told the results of this mission?