

# JESUS COMMISSIONS HIS DISCIPLES

## LUKE 09:01–09

### *Introduction*

This was the first time Jesus sent His disciples out alone; therefore, it a significant event. The instructions given by Jesus to the early disciples are needed by every generation of believers. It is the only sure way the world can ever be reached and grounded in the Lord.

- I. Their call: to come together for ministry (v. 1).
- II. Their equipment: power and authority (v. 1).
- III. Their mission: to preach and minister (v. 2).
- IV. Their method (vv. 3-5).
- V. Their obedience: they went forth preaching and ministering (v. 6).
- VI. Their effect (vv. 7-9).

### **I. *Luke 09:01 Ministers Called Together to Minister with Power***

The disciples' call was to come together for ministry. Jesus had to call His disciples back *together*. Note the word *together* (sunkalesamenos). The word reveals several things to us.

1. The disciples had families and responsibilities. We tend to glamorize the disciples and Jesus, forgetting the disciples were ordinary men with day-to-day duties. They were not with the Lord at this time. They had to spend some time at home taking care of their families and whatever other duties they had. No doubt they did spend most of their time with Jesus as traveling evangelists, but at certain times, they returned home in order to tend to family affairs.
2. The basic ingredient for ministry is *togetherness*. Note the words, “called...together.” The very thrust of the words points to the importance of *coming together*.

***John 13:33-34*** “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

***Phil 1:27*** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.

3. The purpose for coming together is to minister. Jesus was completing His Galilean ministry. He was now ready to set His face toward Jerusalem (Lk. 9:51). His ministry had been successful. Multitudes knew of His coming to earth, many had been helped and some did believe and trust. Now, before He left the area, He wanted to reach out
-

one more time to those who were close to believing and to more deeply root and ground those who already believed.

4. The call of Jesus was for the disciples to have power to “drive out all demons and to cure diseases.”
  - a. “Power...to drive out all demons.” The word “all” means that the disciple was to have power over all kinds of evil, no matter how evil and enslaving, strong and fierce, subtle and undetected. It also points to the glorious purpose of Jesus. He had come to defeat and conquer the evil forces of this world, to rout and triumph over “all” of them.

**Eph 6:12** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

**John 12:31** *Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.*

**Col 1:13-14** *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Col 2:15** *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he [Christ] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

**Heb 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**1 John 3:8** *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.*

- b. “Power...to cure diseases.” This would demonstrate the great compassion of the Lord and draw people to Him (Jn. 12:32). It would also help tremendously in confirming the faith of some.

## **II. Luke 09:01 Ministers Equipped with Power and Authority**

The disciples’ equipment was to be power and authority. Jesus equipped His disciples with power and with the authority to use that power. Power is the *gift*, the necessary resource to minister; authority is the *right* to minister. The disciple has to decide when and where to exercise his power (resource). The awesome responsibility for such power should help to keep the disciple on his face before God, acknowledging his total dependence upon God. It should also help the disciple to seek a closeness with God, a true sensitivity to the Spirit of God.

**Thought 1.** Think how little power is really seen in the lives and ministry of believers, lay and minister alike! How *displaced* or *misplaced* so many believers are. The *authority*

to minister (where and when) has not been used as it should. The face of the Lord has not been sought, not to the point that a true closeness to His Spirit has directed our authority. We have taken the authority, the right to minister where we wish into our own hands. The evidence: after 2000 years so much of the world still has not heard the gospel.

**Mat 28:19-20** *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

**Acts 1:8** *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

**Acts 4:33** *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.*

**1 Cor 2:4** *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.*

**1 Tim 1:12** *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*

**2 Cor 3:6** *He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant — not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

**2 Cor 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

**Phil 4:13** *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

**Eph 3:20** *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

**1 Th 1:5** *Because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.*

**2 Tim 1:7** *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

### **III. Luke 09:02 Ministers’ Duty: To Preach and Minister**

The disciples’ mission was to preach and minister. Note three points.

1. They were sent on the very same mission as Christ.

**John 20:21** *Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*

**Luke 9:11** *But the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.*

2. They were to preach the Kingdom of God (see *Kingdom of God*, Mt. 19:23-24). Preaching met the spiritual needs of the human soul.

**Luke 19:10** *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*  
(see John 20:31)

3. They were to heal the sick. Healing met the physical needs of the human body.

**Mat 20:28** *“Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**1 Pet 3:08** *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.*

**Jude 1:22-23** *Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear — hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.*

**Zec 7:9** *This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.’*

**Heb 5:2** *He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.*

#### **IV. Luke 09: 03–05 Ministers’ Threefold Method**

The disciples’ method was threefold.

1. They were not to seek success through personal appearance and materialism. They were to live in utter simplicity and humility. This was the point of the things Christ listed (v. 3. See note, Mk. 6:8-13.) Christ was saying three things to the disciples.
  - a. The need and the hour were urgent. Concentrate on preaching and ministering. Do not get side-tracked.

**Col 3:2** *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

- b. Learn to believe and trust God, day by day. Become a living example of what is being preached: faith in God. Do not begin to trust in the things of the world. Learn to trust God daily, and then others can learn what is meant by “believing” and “trusting” God through your example.

**Mat 6:33** *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

- c. Avoid the very appearance of evil. Having your mind upon the things of this world will distract from God and from the needs of men and from the ministry. Become attached to God and to His kingdom alone; not to money, houses, lands, cars, clothes, hairstyles, appearance, food, buying, selling and accumulating. Be heavenly-minded and ministry-centred, so that men may know there is a far better land than what this earth offers.

**Rom 8:5-6** *Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

**Heb 11:13-16** *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

**Heb 11:24-26** *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.*

2. They were to minister in the homes to the interested and the hospitable families (see *Home Church*, Lk. 9:4).
3. They were to warn rejecters. If a community or city did not receive their witness and if a home could not be found that would receive them, then the disciple was to leave.
  - a. He was not to force the issue or create a bad situation either for the rejecters or for himself. There was to be no tongue-lashing, accusation or divisiveness created.
  - b. He was simply to leave; and as he left, he was to give a *silent* testimony against them. He was to shake the very dust from his feet. This was a symbol of serious judgment. It meant that not even the dust of that place was worthy of the gospel of God, much less the people. The place and its people were *left* to themselves just as they had wished. They were left *without God* and His glorious news of salvation, so they were to be left alone to govern their own lives just as they had willed. God would *abandon* them to their own way and choice of life.

### LUKE 09:04 CHURCH, IN HOMES

The method Christ chose for evangelizing was the method of home evangelism (see 10:5f). Note this, for it should speak loudly and clearly to us. The disciple was to carefully investigate and search out a receptive family and home. He was to make that home the centre for ministry. Note several things about this method.

- a. It emphasizes the family, making it the very hub of ministry.
- b. It stresses stability, security and settledness. Nothing on earth is to be any more secure and stable than the family. By placing the centre of ministry in the home, the Kingdom of God becomes secure and stable.
- c. It centres preaching and ministering in the community, right where people live and walk. It makes the presence of Christ visible to all in day-to-day living.
- d. It serves as the centre from which the message can move out in an ever-widening circle, spreading from family to family.

**Thought 1.** The most ideal form of evangelism is probably this method given by Christ: a selected home and family serving as the centre of witness within a community or town. The early church was definitely centred in the homes of committed believers (Acts 5:42; 12:12; 16:40; 20:20; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Phile. 2). □

### V. *Luke 09:06 Obedience*

They went forth and preached and ministered. The disciples did exactly what Christ had commissioned them to do. They did not fail in the least.

- a. They departed. There was no hesitation, no question, no condition, no hanging back, no slowness to move.
- b. They went through the towns. They reached a home and ministered to its surrounding community, ever moving farther and farther out into the whole town. And then they moved on to another town to bear witness to its people as well.
- c. They preached and ministered “everywhere.” They had an extensive ministry, very successful in its outreach, ministering to both soul (preaching) and body (healing).

*Acts 8:4* Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

*2 Tim 4:2* Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

*Luke 9:60* Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

*Acts 5:20* “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”

## **VI. *Luke 09:07–09 Response to Jesus Christ***

Their effect was phenomenal. The message and ministry of Jesus and His apostles reached even into the halls of government. The impact of the message and ministry reached far and wide during these days. (See notes, Mt. 14:1-14; Mk. 6:14-29.)

1. Herod became disturbed. He had murdered John the Baptist, and some were saying that Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead. Of course, Herod’s conscience was bothering him, just as all men are nagged by questions (at least questions about reality and the hereafter). He thought he had gotten rid of John’s convicting preaching. Was it possible that John had arisen or that another like John had come on the scene? Herod wished to know.
2. The people were speculating about Jesus’ identity (see notes, Jn. 7:37-53). ■