

Who is This?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 6:7-52.

B. Jesus' campaign to teach the disciples who He is forms the theme of this section.

II. Principles from the ministry of the Twelve.

A. The disciples exercised power.

B. This power was expressed in unity—two by two.

C. It was superiority over all forms of evil. Authority is given to those who go out in the name of Jesus.

D. The disciples practiced dependence.

1. They brought nothing with them.

2. Jesus did this to teach them lessons on faith.

3. This was also in line with the general practices of the time since hospitality was important. (Luke 22:35)

4. Those that go in the ministry of Jesus must have God open doors.

E. The disciples went to give and not to get.

F. A word of sorrow was to be expressed for people who would not receive them.

G. Their message was repentance—acknowledgment of wrong.

1. The disciples were empowered to give forgiveness and healing in the name of Jesus.

2. Their ministry was in response to sin and evil in the human individual.

H. Abiding principles: we are to go out in dependence upon God, in authority and in declaration that people are open to the ministry and grace of God when they become aware of their need.

I. Results.

1. The disciples were content to know that Jesus was magnified.

2. Herod was frightened out of his wits.

a. Herod thought that this must have been John the Baptist raised from the dead.

b. The amazing thing is that Herod was a Sadducee, and Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection from the dead.

II. John the Baptist's beheading. This is the reason Jesus has the Twelve continue the ministry of John adding to it the authority to cast out demons and heal those afflicted by sin.

III. The result of the return of the Twelve.

A. The Lord recognized that this was a period of danger—they needed rest and time to think through what had happened.

B. There is great peril after spiritual success.

IV. Through the feeding of the five thousand Jesus created a deliberate picture of Himself for His disciples: He suggested that He was the bread from heaven like the manna given in the wilderness.

A. This miracle was an examination period after the disciples had been sent out.

B. When Jesus walked on the water, the disciples finally began to search and ask who this was.

C. The question we are to ask is who the one is who sends the storms into our lives and tests us to see whether we really believe what we say.

D. The Lord trains us to follow Him.

Application questions:

1. Which principle of Jesus stands out to you the most? What strikes you?

2. Why is the question about Jesus so important to us today? How does it affect the way we understand all of the challenges we face?

3. How would you grade yourself with regard to your dependence upon Christ? What can you do to step further out in faith trusting God for something great? Explain.
