

Did Jesus Say It or Not?

Jesus Sends out the Twelve

Mark 6:7-12

7 And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for *their* journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in *their* purse:

9 But *be* shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

10 And he said unto them, **In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.**

11 **And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.**

12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

- Jesus sent out the twelve disciples in pairs to go out and to preach the message of repentance.
 - Jesus did this as a way for them to start applying what he was teaching them and to prepare them for when Jesus would ascend back to heaven.
 - Jesus taught them by leading them, but he also made them leave the “classroom” and put his learning to the test.
- Jesus wanted them to be able to do the same thing that he was doing, which was to preach the truth.
 - Notice that they didn’t need any fancy equipment, just a staff, sandals and one coat and rely on people to show you hospitality.
 - It would have taken faith for them to leave the comfort of their homes and areas without anything to fall back on.
- Many of us think that we are lacking so many things that are required before we can serve the Lord, whether it be funding, education, gifts, etc., but this is false.
 - Jesus called us in our current state, with what we have today, to step out in faith and serve Him!
 - If we need anything else, we need to trust that the Lord will provide it!
- This was a test of faith for the disciples, which would cause them to grow spiritually but it also gave people an opportunity to get a blessing by supporting these disciples that came into their towns.
 - When we have missionaries come to visit to share their work, when we have singers and evangelists and we get an opportunity to help them as a church, it is a blessing.
 - But Jesus warned them that in some places they would not be welcomed...

Judgment Against Rejecting Repentance

6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

- In those days, if Jewish people passed through a Gentile city, as soon as they left, they would shake the dust off of their feet.
 - It was a symbolic way of saying that they didn't want to take anything from the Gentile city with them and to be cleansed from it.
 - Jesus is saying it is more important spiritually to shake the dust off of your feet when it comes to people that won't receive the truth.
- There will be places where men and women will refuse to receive the message of repentance and that means that you will need to move to the next place so that people who won't reject the message get to hear the truth.
 - That doesn't mean we never give the truth again to those people, it just means we may need to walk away and keep praying that the Holy Spirit will soften their heart.

What does Jesus say about these truth rejectors? "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city."

- Jesus was saying that on that day, when hell delivered up all of its dead and all stood before him to be judged, if there was a man that lived in Capernaum during Jesus' life and lived a pretty good moral life, but rejected Jesus.
 - Then, there was a Sodomite man, who lived wickedly, but didn't hear anything about godliness or righteousness, because Lot never witnessed the truth and he rejected putting his faith in God.
 - Both men would be cast into the lake of fire for eternity, but Jesus said, it would be more tolerable for the Sodomite than the moral man from Capernaum, because he received more truth about Jesus Christ.
 - That tells me that the degrees of judgment are at least partially dependent on the amount of truth received.
 - The more truth about Jesus Christ someone was exposed to in their life, the more responsible they will be for rejecting it in the next life and will lead to a greater punishment.
- This is very controversial and people don't like it when they are told they need to repent, so what do the other version say?

NIV (Verse 11) - And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

ESV (Verse 11) - And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them."

NASB (Verse 11) - "Any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake the dust off the soles of your feet for a testimony against them."

- The modern versions delete this part of the verse because people don't like that they are going to be judged by God and they don't like that Jesus said greater punishment would come to those that reject more truth.

Jesus Calls Men to Listen to His Teaching

Chapter 7 of Mark begins with the Pharisees and scribes seeing some of the disciples eat bread without going through the ritual handwashing.

- The passage is not saying that the disciples ate with dirty hands or unwashed hands, because you would have physically washed your hands first, then did the ceremonial handwashing, which the disciples did not do.
 - Jesus begins to tell the Pharisees that questioned him about his disciples that you ceremonially wash your hands, pots and cups, but you don't follow the commandment to honor thy father and thy mother.

Mark 7:13-16

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

14 And when he had called all the people *unto him*, he said unto them, **Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand:**

15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

- Jesus is teaching that we aren't defiled by what we eat, but we are defiled by what comes out of our hearts.
 - He then more fully explains the parable to his disciples...

Mark 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, **22** Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: **23** All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

- Today's society cares more about what they eat and how they eat than how they act.
 - As long as I am eating organic and not eating processed foods, I can live a clean life.
 - The Jews had lots of dietary restrictions and rules on washing things before eating, those things can't cause a man to become clean.

- You can eat organically but if you are practicing fornication, Jesus is saying that you are defiling your body.
 - There are religious groups that will only eat meat that is killed and prepared a certain way, but they have no qualms about killing innocent people that are outside of their religion.
 - According to Jesus, they aren't realizing that their ceremonial or religious obedience is just a coverup for their true sinful nature.

- This would have actually been a groundbreaking statement that Jesus made at the time to anyone that was a Jew, which doesn't seem as important to us today because we haven't grown up and lived under the OT ceremonial law.
 - What we eat affects our physical body, but Jesus wasn't concerned with the stomach but more concerned with men's hearts.
 - Many today in Christianity have it backwards, but Jesus wanted to make sure that it was emphasized, which is why he said in Mark 7:16, "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

- This verse is totally removed in the ESV, CSB, and NIV and the NASB has it in brackets with a footnote stating that it wasn't in the earliest manuscripts.
 - Why is this verse important and why is it one of the handful of verses that have been totally removed from modern versions?
 - Jesus was answering the Pharisees and scribes starting in verse 6 that questioned him about his disciples, but look again at verse 14...

14 And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Harken unto me every one of you, and understand:

- Jesus is teaching on living righteously and not mistaking following rituals with righteousness.
 - Jesus in verse 14-16 is talking to everyone, not just the Jewish Pharisees and scribes, but all the people.
 - Jesus had already called out the Pharisees and scribes for them forsaking taking care of their aged parents because of their vain traditions, but now He is addressing everyone by saying that what defiles a man comes from the heart.

- Remember, the problem with the second half of Mark 6:11 was that there would be greater judgment for those that refused the message of repentance.
 - Here, Jesus is telling all people that because of the wickedness that comes from their heart, all men need to repent.
 - Ceremonially washing your hands doesn't cleanse your heart, only a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can do that.

- Whenever Jesus' words are removed in modern translations, it makes me think, did Jesus say it or not?
 - Based on what is being said in both of these passages, the world and the church that is conformed to the world will both say, No!

- They will argue that the older manuscripts don't have these passages and that the sole reason to chose a manuscript is its age.
 - The older the better, which means the oldest ones we have are the Alexandrian manuscripts that came from Egypt.
 - Alexandrians were mention in some of the group that stirred up the people and lied about Stephen to get him stoned to death.
 - Also, so many copies of the scriptures were destroyed over several Roman emperors that were hostile to Christianity, especially in 303 AD by Diocletian, should we trust ones that survived in Egypt?