

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 65

TITLE: THE 12 ARE SENT OUT

TEXT: LUKE 9:1-9

INTRODUCTION: (1) SPECTATOR CHRISTIANITY
FOR A LONG TIME HAS BEEN A SCOURGE TO THE
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

* NOW WHAT I MEAN BY SPECTATOR
CHRISTIANITY IS CHRISTIANS WHO SIT ON THE
SIDELINES AS SPECTATORS AND DO NOT
PARTICIPATE IN MINISTRY.

** AND THE REASON SPECTATOR CHRISTIANITY
**IS SO POPULAR IT'S EASIER TO SIT THAN IT IS TO
SERVE, IT'S EASIER TO WATCH THAN IT IS TO
PARTICIPATE, IT'S EASIER TO RELAX THAN IT IS
TO WORK, IT'S EASIER TO CRITICIZE THAN TO
COMPETE.**

*** BECAUSE OF THAT, MANY BIBLE BELIEVING CHURCHES TODAY ARE CONTINUALLY ASKING AND EVEN BEGGING PEOPLE TO SERVE THEIR SAVIOR.

**** NOW THAT TO ME SEEMS TO BE RIDICULOUS, ABSURD, THE VERY THOUGHT OF BEGGING CHRISTIANS TO SERVE THE SAVIOR WHO DIED FOR THEM IS LUDICROUS.

***** IT IS THE EPITOME OF AN UNGRATEFUL WORLD-CENTERED, SELF-CENTERED HEART THAT JUSTIFIES NOT SERVING THE SAVIOR WHO RESCUED US FROM THE HOLY WRATH OF GOD AND KEEPS US AND WATCHES OVER US AND SUPPLIES OUR EVERY NEED EVERY DAY.

(2) AND IF YOU PROFESS THAT YOU KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR AND ARE STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE RIGHT NOW, GOOD, PRAISE THE LORD.

* FOR IF YOU ARE A TRUE BELIEVER, THE LORD GOD SAVED YOU FOR HIS PURPOSES, FOR HIS GLORY, FOR HIS PLEASURE, BY HIS GRACE, AND HIS GRACE AND MERCY SHOULD BE A MOTIVATION TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSES.

** AND HIS PURPOSE IS THAT IN WHATEVER WE DO, WE MIGHT BRING HIM GLORY, AND THAT MEANS IN OUR OBEDIENCE OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM, WE ARE HIS AMBASSADORS, HIS LIGHTS, HIS WITNESSES, HIS STEWARDS, HIS SERVANTS.

*** AND THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF A SERVANT IS TO SERVE HIS MASTER, RIGHT?

**** THE LORD CALLS US TO A LIFE THAT BRINGS HIM GLORY. THE QUESTION TODAY, IS HOW MUCH GLORY ARE WE BRINGING TO THE ONE WHO CALLED US OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT?

(3) WELL, OUR LORD CALLED 12 APOSTLES EARLIER IN HIS MINISTRY. AND THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF CALLING THEM WAS TO CARRY ON HIS WORK AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE EARTH.

* TO BE HIS MESSENGERS, HIS WITNESSES, TO BE A FOUNDATION FOR THE CHURCH THAT HE **WOULD BUILD AS IT'S HEAD.**

** AND THE APOSTLES WERE THE ORIGINAL MISSIONARIES, TRAINED AND SENT FORTH TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO A WORLD **UNDER GOD'S** JUDGMENT, INTO A HARVEST THAT WAS PLENTIFUL BUT FOR WHICH THE WORKERS WERE FEW.

*** FOR JESUS SAID TO THEM AT THE END OF MATTHEW 9 IN VV. 37&38 (QUOTE THEM).

**** NOW THE LORD OF THE HARVEST SENDS FORTH THESE LABORERS, THE 12 INTO HIS HARVEST IN MATTHEW 10 AND HERE IN THE LUKE 9.

(4) AND THE INSTRUCTION JESUS GAVE THE APOSTLES AT THIS TIME WAS FOR A SHORT TERM MISSION WORK IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, IN GALILEE; BUT THE BASIC CONCEPTS APPLY TO EVERY BELIEVER THE LORD SENDS OUT INTO MINISTRY, WHICH IS ALL OF US.

* AND SOME OF THE SPECIFICS IN LUKE 9 WERE RESTRICTED TO A GIVEN TIME AND SITUATION, BUT THE PRINCIPLES ARE BROAD AND UNIVERSAL.

**** IN LIGHT OF THAT, I'VE TITLED MY MESSAGE "THE 12 ARE SENT OUT."**

**** AND IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE 9:1-9 TODAY, **WE'LL LOOK AT** 5 THINGS. NO. 1 THE POWER OF THE 12, V. 1; NO. 2 THE PROCLAMATION OF THE 12, V. 2; NO. 3 THE PROHIBITIONS OF THE 12, V. 3; NO. 4 THE PROVISION FOR THE 12, VV. 4-6; NO. 5 THE PERPLEXITY OF HEROD, VV. 7-9.

(5) SO WE'LL LOOK AT THE POWER, THE PROCLAMATION, THE PROHIBITIONS, THE PROVISION AND THE PERPLEXITY. AND WITH THOSE 5 POINTS TO HANG YOUR THOUGHTS ON, LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR** FIRST POINT, THE POWER.

I. THE POWER, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW THE 12 APOSTLES WERE CHOSEN BY JESUS AFTER SPENDING ALL NIGHT IN PRAYER IN LUKE 6:12-16.

* AND UP TO THIS POINT, THEY HAD BEEN HEARERS AND LEARNERS, WATCHING JESUS, IN WHAT WE MIGHT CALL THEIR INTERNSHIP, A TRAINING TIME.

** NOW IT WAS TIME TO SEND THEM OUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR TRAINING PERIOD, THE TIME OF WATCHING WAS NOW OVER, THE TIME OF MINISTRY HAD COME.

*** AND THIS PARTICULAR TIME OF MINISTRY OF BEING SENT OUT PROBABLY ONLY LASTED ONLY A FEW WEEKS, BUT IT WAS SPECIFICALLY SIGNIFICANT, BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME KINGDOM TRUTH WAS PROCLAIMED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN JOHN THE BAPTIZER AND JESUS HIMSELF.

**** BUT NOW IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PURPOSE FROM WHICH CHRIST HAD SAID TO EACH OF THE **12 "FOLLOW ME", HE** NOW SENDS THEM OUT IN PAIRS ON THEIR FIRST ASSIGNMENT TO BE FISHERS OF MEN.

1. AND I SAY IN PAIRS BECAUSE IN MARK'S PARALLEL PASSAGE IN MARK 6:7, MARK SAYS OF JESUS (QUOTE IT).

* SO JESUS SENT OUT THE 12 IN PAIRS, 6 TEAMS, NO DOUBT FOR MUTUAL ENCOURAGEMENT, FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TO HELP EACH OTHER IN THIS CONTINUING TRAINING PROCESS.

** NOW NOTE AS WE GO BACK TO V. 1, THAT JESUS NOT ONLY HAD TRAINED THEM, BUT ALSO GAVE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO GET THE JOB DONE.

*** **AND THE 12 WERE GRANTED "POWER AND AUTHORITY" THE LIKES OF WHICH ONLY JESUS** EVEN POSSESSED AND BRIEFLY THE 70 THAT ARE SENT OUT IN LUKE 10.

**** AND THE GREEK WORD FOR POWER IS DYNAMIS FROM WHICH WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD DYNAMITE.

2. AND THIS DYNAMITE POWER THE APOSTLES WERE GIVEN WAS THE DIVINE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH THE IMPOSSIBLE, THEY HAD CAPABILITIES THAT WERE SUPERNATURAL THAT MADE THEM UNIQUE.

*** BUT JESUS ALSO GAVE THE 12 "AUTHORITY" IN**
V. 1. AND AUTHORITY HAS TO DO WITH THE
RIGHT TO DO WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN
COMMISSIONED TO DO, THE DIVINE MANDATE
TO CARRY OUT THE LORD'S COMMISSION, THE
RIGHT TO USE THE POWER JESUS GAVE THEM
FOR HIS PURPOSES.

** AND AS YOU PUT POWER AND AUTHORITY
TOGETHER, THE APOSTLES HAVE THE MIGHT
AND THE RIGHT TO CARVE OUT THE MANDATE
JESUS ASSIGNED TO THEM.

*** NOW SPECIFICALLY THE MIGHT AND RIGHT,
THE POWER AND AUTHORITY THE 12 WERE
GIVEN AT THE END OF V. 1 WAS OVER ALL THE
DEMONS AND TO HEAL DISEASES.

**** NOW WHY THESE TWO THINGS?

3. WELL, IF THE APOSTLE'S MESSAGE WHICH **WE'LL TALK ABOUT IN V. 2, WAS TO BE** VALIDATED AND BELIEVED, THERE NEEDED TO BE A WAY TO ATTEST ITS DIVINE ORIGIN. THUS THEIR MIRACLES BACKED UP THEIR MESSAGE.

* IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DID PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE APOSTLES WERE TELLING THE TRUTH **ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM AND THE GOSPEL?**

** THE ANSWER, SIGNS AND WONDERS, POWER AND AUTHORITY.

*** **BELOVED, THE 12'S** AUTHENTICITY WAS VERIFIED BY THEIR GOD-GRANTED ABILITY TO PERFORM THE SAME KIND OF MIRACULOUS SIGNS THAT JESUS PERFORMED, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN THE NORM IN REDEMPTIVE HISTORY.

**** THUS THE APOSTLES PAUL SAYS IN II CORINTHIANS 12:12 (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE HEBREWS 2:3&4.

4. AND THAT'S WHY PAUL SAID THIS IN ROMANS 15:18-20 -

V. 18 - FOR I WILL NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK OF ANYTHING EXCEPT WHAT CHRIST HAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH ME, RESULTING IN THE OBEDIENCE OF THE GENTILES BY WORD AND DEED,

V. 19 - IN THE POWER OF SIGNS AND WONDERS, IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT; SO THAT FROM JERUSALEM AND ROUND ABOUT AS FAR AS ILLYRICUM I HAVE FULLY PREACHED THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

V. 20 - AND THUS I ASPIRED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, NOT WHERE CHRIST WAS ALREADY NAMED, SO THAT I WOULD NOT BUILD ON **ANOTHER MAN'S FOUNDATION;**

* AND THEN IN ACTS 2:43, LUKE SAID - EVERYONE KEPT FEELING A SENSE OF AWE; AND MANY WONDERS AND SIGNS WERE TAKING PLACE THROUGH THE APOSTLES.

** ACTS 5:12 - AT THE HANDS OF THE APOSTLES MANY SIGNS AND WONDERS WERE TAKING PLACE AMONG THE PEOPLE; AND THEY WERE **ALL WITH ONE ACCORD IN SOLOMON'S PORTICO.**

*** AND THEN IN ACTS 19:11 SAYS: GOD WAS PERFORMING EXTRAORDINARY MIRACLES BY THE HANDS OF PAUL.

**** **NOW I'VE GIVEN YOU ALL THESE VERSES TO** TELL YOU THAT SIGNS AND WONDERS, WERE SPECIAL, UNIQUE, UNUSUAL POWER AND AUTHORITY THAT WAS GIVEN TO THE APOSTLES TO AUTHENTICATE THEIR MESSAGE AND PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR THE CHURCH, A FOUNDATIONAL TEMPORARY MINISTRY, TO PROVIDE A FOUNDATION IN THE CHURCH, QUOTE EPHESIANS 2:20.

5. AND SIGNS AND WONDERS WERE NEVER TO BE NORMATIVE IN THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH NOW 2,000 YEARS LATER, THE FOUNDATION IS THE STARTING BLOCK AND YOU **DON'T PUT THE FOUNDATION OR THE 21ST** FLOOR OF THE CHURCH.

* THOSE WHO COMMUNICATE SIGNS AND WONDERS AS NORMATIVE FAIL TO REALIZE THAT SPECIAL UNIQUE, NON-NORMATIVE POWER WAS GIVEN TO THE APOSTLES TO AUTHENTICATE WHAT THEY SAID, THEIR MESSAGE BEFORE THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS COMPLETED.

**** AND TODAY WE TEST A PERSON'S MINISTRY BY THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD.**

*** I MEAN SINCE THE COMPLETION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, A PREACHER'S MESSAGE IS **MEASURED BY THE STANDARD OF GOD'S WORD, THAT'S HOW OUR MESSAGE IS AUTHENTICATED.**

**** SO HOW DO PEOPLE KNOW I AM TELLING THE TRUTH, BY GOING BACK TO SCRIPTURE, LOOK AT THE TEXT, LOOKING UP VERSES.

***** BUT HOW DID PEOPLE KNOW THE APOSTLES WERE TELLING THE TRUTH? SIGNS AND WONDERS, JESUS GAVE THEM POWER AND AUTHORITY. WHICH LEADS US FROM THE POWER TO THE PROCLAMATION, IN LUKE 9, OUR **2'D POINT TODAY. LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.**

II. THE PROCLAMATION, (READ V. 2)

A. NOW SPECIFICALLY JESUS SPECIALLY EMPOWERED THE 12 TO DO TWO THINGS, HERALDING AND HEALING.

* TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TO PERFORM HEALING. AND NOTICE THE LINKAGE IN V. 2 TO V. 6 TO PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN V. 2 IS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL IN V. 6.

** FOR AS THEY DEPART IN V. 6, THEY GO PREACHING THE GOSPEL WHICH IN V. 2 IS PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

*** AND AGAIN I REMIND YOU THAT THE PROCLAMATION, THE PREACHING, THE **HERALDING OF GOD'S TRUTH OF SAVING** SINNERS AND BRINGING THEM TO REPENTANCE IS VERIFIED AS FROM GOD BY HEALINGS AND MIRACLES.

**** THE HEALINGS, HAVING COMPASSION ON PEOPLE PHYSICALLY IN A LAND WHERE DISEASE AND DEATH WERE EVERYWHERE, VERIFIED THAT THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION WAS TRULY FROM GOD.

1. THE MIRACLES PROVED THAT THE APOSTLES WERE PREACHING DIVINE TRUTH.

* SO WE SEE POWER FOR PROCLAMATION IN VERSES 1&2 OF LUKE 9, WHICH LEADS TO SOME PROHIBITIONS FOR THE APOSTLES AS THEY ARE SENT OUT. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE, OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PROHIBITIONS.

III. THE PROHIBITIONS, (READ V. 3)

A. NOW AS JESUS SENDS THE APOSTLES OUT, THEY ARE TO TRAVEL LIGHT, TO USE AN EXPRESSION OF TODAY, THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED EVEN TO TAKE A CARRY-ON BAG.

* THEY WERE PROHIBITED TO TAKE CERTAIN THINGS WITH THEM AS THEY ARE SENT OUT BY THE LORD.

** AND SPECIFICALLY A STAFF, A WALKING STICK, WHICH COULD ALSO BE USED AS A DEFENSE AGAINST ROBBERS. AND AS WE COMPARE MARK 6:8 TO OUR TEXT, JESUS SAID THE APOSTLES SHOULD TAKE NOTHING FOR THEIR JOURNEY EXCEPT A MERE STAFF.

*** AND AS YOU COMPARE THE TWO TEXTS, THEY INDICATE THAT THE LORD WAS FORBIDDING THEM TO TAKE AN EXTRA STAFF.

**** THEN AS WE GO BACK TO LUKE 9:3 THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE A BAG. AND THIS WAS A TRAVELERS BAG, KIND OF A KNAPSACK, A BAG FOR THE ROAD, A BAG THAT WAS USED FOR SUPPLIES WHILE TRAVELING, POSSIBLY EVEN A SMALL FOOD SACK.

1. ALSO THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE BREAD, A STAPLE FOOD, NOR MONEY. AND THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE TWO TUNICS, JUST ONE AS THEIR BASIC CLOTHING, AND MATTHEW AND MARK ADDS, ONLY ONE PAIR OF SANDALS, NOT TWO.

* AND THE POINT IS, THESE MEN NEEDED TO BE **DEPENDENT ON THE LORD'S PROVISION FOR** THEIR NEEDS. THEY HAD TO GO OUT HUMBLLY TO BEGIN WITH, RELYING ON THE LORD AND THE HOSPITALITY OF PEOPLE THAT WOULD RECEIVE THEIR MESSAGE.

** SO THEY WERE NOT TO TAKE ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACK, THEY WERE NOT TO ENCUMBER THEMSELVES WITH EXTRA BAGGAGE ON THIS SHORT MISSIONS TRIP.

*** HOWEVER, IN BALANCE, THIS AUSTERITY PROGRAM WAS TEMPORARY, FOR THE PURPOSE **OF THE 12'S TRAINING AND NOT THE NORM.**

**** AND THIS IS CLEAR FROM WHAT OUR LORD WILL SAY TO THEM LATER IN THE UPPER ROOM. AND THERE THE LORD WILL REMIND THEM OF HIS CHARGE IN OUR PASSAGE, BUT REMIND HOW THINGS WOULD BE IN THE FUTURE.

2. FOR IN LUKE 22:35&36 OUR LORD SAID, **"WHEN I SENT YOU OUT WITHOUT MONEY, BELT AND BAG AND SANDALS, YOU DID NOT LACK ANYTHING DID YOU? THEY SAID NO, NOTHING."**

* THEN ESTABLISHING THE PATTERN FOR THEIR FUTURE MINISTRY, THE LORD SAID TO THEM, **“BUT NOW WHOEVER HAS A MONEY BELT IS TO TAKE IT ALONG, LIKEWISE ALSO A BAG, AND WHOM HAS NO SWORD IS TO SELL HIS COAT AND BUY ONE.” (OBVIOUSLY AS A MEANS OF PROTECTION AND SELF DEFENSE).**

** BUT FOR THE APOSTLES FIRST TRAINING MISSION HERE IN LUKE 9, THEY NEEDED TO TRUST AND SEE THE LORD PROVIDE.

*** **AND THE LORD’S** PROVISION IS TALKED **ABOUT IN V. 4, WHERE WE’LL START TO SEE OUR 4TH POINT TODAY, THE PROVISION. LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.**

IV. THE PROVISION, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW HOW WOULD THE APOSTLES SURVIVE ON THIS SHORT TERM MISSIONS TRIP?

* WELL, ROOM AND BOARD WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THOSE WHOM WOULD HEAR THE MESSAGE AND OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE TOUCHED BY THE MESSAGE TO EXTEND HOSPITALITY.

** AND WHATEVER HOUSE THEY HAPPENED TO BE INVITED TO STAY IN, THE APOSTLES, TEAMS OF TWO, WERE TO STAY THERE UNTIL THEY LEFT THAT CITY.

*** IT IS TO SAY, THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO BE LOOKING AROUND FOR A BETTER PLACE TO STAY, THEY WERE NOT TO FOCUS ON UPGRADING OR TO BE INVOLVED IN QUOTE HOTEL HOPPING TO MOVE UP.

**** THEIR FOCUS WAS TO BE ON MINISTRY, NOT COMFORT, THEY WERE TO BE CONTENT WITH **GOD'S PROVISION AND NOT LOOKING FOR A** BETTER PLACE TO STAY ON BETTER HOME COOKING. THEY WERE TO REDEEM THE TIME AND BE GRATEFUL AND NOT INGRATES.

1. BELOVED, THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL HAS THE PRIORITY OVER THEIR PERSONAL LIKES AND DISLIKES. SO **JESUS' INSTRUCTION, STAY UNTIL YOU LEAVE, FOR THOSE WHO RECEIVE YOU.**

* BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THEM. WELL IN V. 5, JESUS GIVES INSTRUCTION FOR THAT. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 5. **NOW OUR LORD'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 12, WAS HOW THEY SHOULD DEAL WITH PEOPLE THAT DO NOT RECEIVE THEM.**

* AND FOR HOMES AND CITIES THAT DID NOT RECEIVE THE APOSTLES AND HEED TO THEIR **MESSAGE, ULTIMATELY WOULD RECEIVE GOD'S** JUDGMENT, THEY WERE TO SHAKE OFF THE DUST OF THEIR FEET AS A TESTIMONY AGAINST THEM.

**** AND TO SHAKE THE DUST OFF ONE'S FEET** WAS A JEWISH GESTURE, A JEWISH SYMBOL.

*** FOR IN THAT DAY WHEN A JEWISH PERSON RETURNED FROM TRAVELING IN A GENTILE COUNTRY, HE WOULD SHAKE THE DUST FROM THAT LAND OFF HIS SANDALS AND CLOTHES AS A SYMBOLIC GESTURE, OR SIGN OF SHAKING OFF THE PAGAN INFLUENCES.

**** WHY? BECAUSE THOSE PAGAN INFLUENCES **COULD CONTAMINATE THE JEWISH PEOPLE'S** LIVES. IT WAS THEIR WAY OF SHOWING THAT WORLDLY INFLUENCE CONTRARY TO THEIR LAWS SHOULD BE REJECTED AND NOT ALLOW THOSE INFLUENCES TO LEAD THEM ASTRAY.

1. THUS SHAKING OFF THE DUST DISASSOCIATED THEM FROM THE POLLUTION OF THOSE PAGAN LANDS AND THE JUDGMENT THAT WAS TO COME UPON THEM.

* AND THEIR SYMBOLIC ACTION FOR HOMES AND CITIES THAT REJECTED THE GOSPEL WAS A PUBLIC **DECLARATION OF GOD'S JUDGMENT, OF GOD'S DIVINE DISPLEASURE THAT RESTS ON A** PEOPLE OR PLACE THAT REJECT THE GOSPEL.

** AND PRACTICALLY IN REDEEMING THE TIME THEY NEEDED TO MOVE ON AND GO TO AREAS THAT WERE RECEPTIVE.

*** AND THOSE WERE THE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS BY THE LORD IN LUKE IN SENDING OUT THE 12.

**** AND WHAT DO THE APOSTLES DO WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS? WELL, THEY DO WHAT ALL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SHOULD DO. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 6. NOW BASICALLY WHAT WAS THE **APOSTLES RESPONSE TO THE LORD'S** INSTRUCTION?

* WELL, THEY ARE OBEDIENT, THEY DEPART AND GO OUT THROUGHOUT DIFFERENT VILLAGES IN GALILEE AND HERALD AND HEAL, THEY PREACH THE GOSPEL AND HEAL EVERYWHERE.

** AND I KNOW THIS IS A SIMPLE AND REPEATED TRUTH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, BUT ONE WE NEED TO BE REMINDED OF. OUR OBEDIENCE SHOWS OUR LOVE FOR OUR LORD. **AND THE PROPER RESPONSE TO THE LORD'S** COMMAND IS OBEDIENCE, NOT WHAT WE SAY WE WILL DO, BUT WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO.

*** A LOT OF PEOPLE TALK CHRISTIANITY, BUT THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD BY OUR OBEDIENCE, QUOTE JOHN 14:15 AND I JOHN 5:3.

**** SO OBEDIENCE IS ALWAYS THE BOTTOM **LINE. THE LORD DOESN'T CALL US TO BE** SUCCESSFUL, CREATIVE, OR FREE SPIRITS, HE CALLS US TO OBEY.

1. AND BELOVED, OBEDIENCE IS ALWAYS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, AND THE APOSTLES OBEY JESUS HERE IN V.6.

** WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 5TH AND FINAL POINT TODAY, THE PERPLEXITY OF HEROD. LOOK AT V.7 PLEASE.

V. THE PERPLEXITY, (READ V. 7)

A. NOW THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED, WHY DOES A RESPONSE OF HEROD COME UP AT THIS POINT?

* WHY **DOES LUKE BRING UP HEROD'S** PERPLEXITY AT THIS POINT?

** WELL, THERE MAY BE A COUPLE OF REASONS. NO. 1 THE MENTION OF A POWERFUL NEMESIS, HEROD, IN THE NEXT VERSE MAY REMIND US THAT OBEDIENCE DOES NOT COME WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION, SUFFERING AND POTENTIAL DEATH.

*** JOHN THE BAPTIZER WAS KILLED BY HEROD. AND BE REMINDED ALL OF THE APOSTLES WERE MARTYRED EXCEPT FOR JOHN AND HE WAS BANISHED TO THE ISLE OF PATMOS.

**** MOST PEOPLE REJECT THE GOSPEL AND THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY IN BEING OBEDIENT TO PROCLAIMING IT.

1. HEROD IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST, THAT REJECT THE MESSAGE, **AND GALILEE'S RESPONSES TO THE APOSTLE'S MISSION** MAY BE SYMBOLIZED BY THE REACTION OF ITS RULER.

* HEROD IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW PEOPLE REACT TO THE GOSPEL AND HOW THEY REACTED TO THE APOSTLES.

** NOW REGARDLESS OF WHY HEROD SHOWS UP HERE, AS HEROD THE TETARCH, WHICH WAS HEROD ANTIPAS, WHOM RULED GALILEE FROM 4 BC TO 39 AD, THE SON OF HEROD THE GREAT, THIS HEROD WAS GREATLY PERPLEXED BY WHAT HE HEARD ABOUT THE PREACHING MINISTRY OF THE APOSTLES ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.

*** FOR SOME WERE SAYING THAT JESUS WAS JOHN THE BAPTIST, RAISED FROM THE DEAD. **AND THAT WOULDN'T GO OVER WELL FOR THIS** HEROD, FOR HE HAD JOHN BEHEADED. IT WOULD BE UH OH!

**** BUT OTHERS SAID THAT JESUS WAS SOMEONE ELSE. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 8. NOW EVERYONE IN GALILEE WAS TALKING ABOUT JESUS AND WHO HE WAS. AND SOME SAID JOHN, OTHERS SAID ELIJAH AND OTHERS SAID ONE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS HAD RISEN AGAIN.

* SO 3 OPTIONS OF WHO JESUS WAS. JOHN, ELIJAH HAD APPEARED, OR AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD. AND **HEROD'S GUILTY CONSCIENCE IS BROUGHT OUT** IN V. 9. LOOK AT V.9 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 9. **NOW ACCORDING TO MARK'S PARALLEL ACCOUNT IN MARK 6:16, IT SAYS: BUT WHEN HEROD HEARD OF IT, HE KEPT SAYING, "JOHN, WHOM I BEHEADED, HAS RISEN!"**

*** NOW ACCORDING TO MARK'S GOSPEL, HEROD WAS PLAGUED BY A GUILTY CONSCIENCE ABOUT HAVING JOHN BEHEADED, FOR HEROD ACKNOWLEDGED IN MARK 6:20 THAT JOHN WAS A RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY MAN. SO HEROD WAS TROUBLED, HE WAS UNEASY, GREATLY PERPLEXED.**

**** AND HE WANTED TO KNOW WHO JESUS WAS AND KEPT TRYING TO SEE JESUS. AND EVENTUALLY HE WOULD, WHEN JESUS WAS SENT TO HEROD FROM PILATE AS A PRISONER. AND IN LUKE 23:11, HEROD AND HIS SOLDIERS WOULD TREAT JESUS WITH CONTEMPT AND WOULD MOCK HIM. HEROD REJECTED JESUS.**

IN SUMMARY AS WE FINISH THIS TEXT TODAY:

(1) HEROD ASKS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF
QUESTIONS IN VERSE 9, "WHO IS THIS MAN?"

* AND THE RESPONSE EACH PERSON GIVES SINCE THEN AND TODAY WILL DETERMINE HIS OR HER ETERNAL DESTINY IN HELL OR IN HEAVEN.

** AND WHO IS THIS MAN? HE IS GOD THE SON, THE MESSIAH, THE SAVIOR, THE CREATOR, THE JUDGE, THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE **BEGINNING AND THE END, THE 2'D PERSON OF THE TRINITY.**

*** HE IS OUR ONLY HOPE TO BE FORGIVEN OF OUR SINS. THEREFORE WE MUST REPENT OF OUR SINS AND TURN TO HIM FOR SALVATION AS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN. HEROD REJECTED HIM, HE IS IN HELL TODAY, AND ALL THOSE WHOM HAVE REJECTED JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR AND LORD.

**** TURN TO HIM TODAY IN REPENTANT FAITH.
WHO IS THIS MEAN? YOUR ONLY HOPE TODAY.

(2) THE APOSTLES WERE SENT OUT TO
PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND TO
PREACH THE GOSPEL PRIMARILY.

*** FOR WHAT'S THE COMMISSION IN MATTHEW**
28:19&20, ACTS 1:8, LUKE 24:47&48 AND ACTS
8:4.

** AND THAT IS OUR TASK AND CALLING AND
COMMISSION TODAY. WE BUILD UPON THE
FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND
PROPHETS.

*** AND AS WE PREACH THE GOOD NEWS OF THE
DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST,
WE PREACH HIM AS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN
FORGIVE SINS.

**** AND PEOPLE WILL REACT TO JESUS AS THE
ONLY SAVIOR AND THAT WE ARE SINNERS.

(3) AND WE HAVE NOT PROCLAIMED THE GOSPEL IF OUR MESSAGE IS HOW CHRIST CAN IMPROVE YOUR LIFE, HOW HE CAN MAKE YOU HEALTHY, WEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS OR COME TO JESUS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR MARRIAGE OR YOUR PARENTING, AND THOSE TWO THINGS WILL BE IMPROVED IF YOU REPENT AND TURN TO JESUS CHRIST.

* HOWEVER, OUR DECLARATION OF CHRIST IS NOT PROMOTING A WAY OF LIFE THAT MAKES YOUR LIFE BETTER, BUT PROMOTING AND LIFTING UP THE SAVIOR THAT WILL FORGIVE SIN BECAUSE YOU ARE SEPARATED FROM CHRIST BY YOUR SIN.

** OUR WITNESS MUST BE ABOUT WHO JESUS IS, AND WHY HE CAME, AND YOU MUST REPENT OR PERISH.

*** SO OUR WITNESS OF JESUS AS WE ARE SENT OUT TODAY IS NOT ANTHROPOCENTRIC (MAN CENTERED) AND NOT EVEN THEOCENTRIC (GOD CENTERED). IT MUST BE RADICALLY CHRISTOCENTRIC (CHRIST-CENTERED). I CLOSE WITH II CORINTHIANS 4:5 AND I CORINTHIANS 1:18 (QUOTE THEM AND PRAY)