

Angelos Biblical Institute

The Theology of Missions Workbook

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Dedication

To the students of ABI. Thank you for the journey. Ay the lord bless you as you labor for him.

On a mission for Jesus

Mark 6:7-13

The disciples have been with the Master for two years now. They have watched him give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, raise the dead and cast out demons.

They have been in the **Master's school of ministry**, and now the time has come for them to go out into the harvest and do what **they have seen the Master do**.

As Disciples of Christ in 2008 we can learn from today's text how **to be good soldiers on mission for Jesus**. This lesson is a call to prepare, and a charge **to move out at Christ command** and be engaged in the harvest with **the work of the kingdom**.

This call is for everyone, young and old, boy and girl, mature believers and those young in the faith. The Master is calling, Let us respond appropriately, and be about our savior business.

7 **Calling the twelve to him**, he sent **them out two by two** and gave them **authority over evil spirits**.

I. Their Masters Mission

Note:

Here in this text is the first time in the New Testament where God gives a group of men (**corporate body**) an assignment to work on his behalf in the earthly realm. This is a picture of God's trust in man, and his sovereign design for man to be a co-laborer with Him in the earth

- *God still uses disciples for the work of his kingdom.*
- *God is still using broken people to win broken people.*
- *God is interested in you serving him for the mission of heaven.*
- *God is interested in you being fulfilled in life.*

When their training was done Jesus called them into action: The time was right in their lives;

1. When the time was right Jesus assigned them to a mission assignment
2. When the time was right Jesus assigned them to a divine task
3. When the time was right Jesus gave them all something to do
4. When the time was right the Master put them to work
5. When the time was right the Master organized the task, appointed the personnel, and gave them the goals and objectives to fulfill the kingdom's agenda on earth.

Note:

- There is no such thing as **a church without an assignment**
- There is no such thing as a **believer without a task**
- There is no such thing as **a disciple without a responsibility in the kingdom**

- Christ calls these men first to himself, **then he calls them to a part of HIS ministry on earth**
- Jesus has work for HIS disciples **and HIS disciples always answer the call!**

The mission given by the Master is hard, but also simple. In this text he lays out specific details of how it is to be carried out. There are two things he orders that they do and have as they represent him in the earth.

1. ***They must do the work together (in pairs)***
2. ***They must do it with his authority***

A. Working with someone else

- It was the Middle Eastern culture to operate in pairs. Friends and family usually worked together in pairs. Eccl 4:9
- It was common practice, fisherman, tax collectors, carpenters worked in pairs.

The bible say's in Eccl. 4:9 *Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.*

- In the kingdom economy they could support one another, care for one another, encourage one another, and build up one another. When one is down the other could pick them up.
- Jesus gave the order, the order was divine, it was from Heaven and God wanted them in pairs on this mission

Note:

The Mission of heaven demands that you work with someone else. There is no such thing as a long ranger Christian. You need a brother or a sister to help serve with you. The kingdom breeds it, the mission model of Jesus demands it, and this church will be better for it, when everyone submits to it.

B. Working under divine authority

Note:

1. **Jesus knows where he is sending them out to serve**, and that **evil is lurking everywhere** to destroy, discourage and damage his messengers. SO He sends them out with **something more than ability** to work with.
 - He gives them **here the authority on earth** to make the enemy behave
 - He gives **them the authority** he has in eternity to make them flee at his name
 - He gives **them the authority** to make them leave the lives of others at the disciples command

Note:

1. This power was **privileged power**
2. This power was **ordained power**
3. This power was **perfect power**
4. This power was from God and recognized by the enemy as an **authentic authority from Heaven.**
5. Jesus knew that **the demons would have to obey** his disciples if they **worked, walked** and **worshipped** in this authority.

This assignment called for a supernatural authority to be in the possession of his men, if they were going to be effective in the mission he had given them.

C. Working to defeat evil spirits

- On this assignment in the villages they were going to face fallen angels, eternal beings with evil power
- These evil spirits once had authority in heaven and rebelled against God. They have now been banished to a soon coming fate (HELL) and are opposing the work of Christ in the earthly realm.
- They are free to combat you and I as we go about the work of the kingdom
- They are a hostile multitude that hate and oppose the church in all that she does.
- Jesus knew his disciples were going to need his authority to handle the demonic influence in this region of the world.

Note:

1. This is a clear picture for the church that God gives us everything we need for the work in the harvest.
2. He supplies all the disciples' tools for the mission at Hand.
3. There is no such thing as a soldier of the cross who has been ill prepared.
4. Jesus does not make mistakes in His missions.

II Their Masters Mandate

8 These were his instructions: "Take **nothing for the journey** *except a staff*-**no bread, no bag, no money** in your belts.

A. What they should Posses

Note:

These instructions are powerful because it shows that the Masters kingdom is not of this world. On earth you may have a need for these items but in Gods kingdom these things are not needed, they were to go forth without these certain provisions;

1. **No bag**
2. **No bread,**
3. **No copper in their money belts**

This was a mission of faith, they must trust Jesus for every thing, and have all of their need met through HIM as they served HIM on and in the mission.

The Christian Soldier must walk by faith. Faith is our model. **Faith is what we preach** and believe. The bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that exist and that He is a rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Heb. 11:6)

Vs. 9 Wear **sandals** but not an **extra tunic**.

- Only take 1 pair of sandals
- Only take 1 tunic to wear (*The tunic was a long piece of cloth folded in half, with holes for the arms and head.*)
- They were allowed to take a staff and sandals; this perhaps would be to fight off wild animals

Note:

1. There was no wealthy image portrayed by these disciples.
2. They were to represent another kingdom on earth.
3. **They had no signs** of earthly riches and wealth on them or in their possessions.
4. God would have **them represent him in a humble manner** rather than a wealthy one.
5. Whatever power and possession they had **must come from God.**
6. They were representatives of the kingdom of heaven, not a kingdom from earth. **So their focus would not and could not be on their possessions.**

Application:

- We could do good to learn a lesson from Jesus about being **flamboyant and trying to represent the master** on the mission field, with our earthly riches.
- **The message of the gospel** is one of total submission and surrender and complete abandonment to the riches of this world.
- This is what we preach by our clothing on the field. We must not take any thing that will be a distraction from others listening to the word of God.
- Money riches, high priced dining events, fancy cars and clothes are distractions for those who would desire to see Jesus.

10 Whenever you enter a *house*, **stay there until you leave** that town.

B. Where they should stay

Note:

The Master gives them a lesson in hospitality, **commanding them to be humble** and stay where ever the hearts of the people were stirred too care for them and to take them in their homes.

- They were to stay in the place that accepted them
- They were not to look for other lodging
- They were to be content with what God had provided

This instruction would keep them from looking around for comforts and stay their minds on the work of the Kingdom.

- Hospitality would be a sign of acceptance and they should stay in that house until they left the city.

Note:

When a family took you in from the village it opened opportunity for one to preach to the entire village. **Staying in one location had privileges.** Jesus would not have them move about the village.

Humility and hospitality go hand in hand. When you are humble about yourself people are more attracted to you while in the field. They desire to serve you as you serve the Lord.

But when you are arrogant and rude and demanding about your needs, the service is poor, the witness is shot and the work is hard.

Vs. 11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, **shake the dust** off your feet when you leave, **as a testimony** against them."

C. What they should expect

Note:

When there is positive interaction on the mission, there is also negative interaction. Jesus warns them here that **there will be hostility** by some on this mission and he gives them instruction on how to handle to it.

- If they got rejected in a place they were not obligated to stay and continue to serve there
- To stay would be like casting their pearls before swine
- The disciples are not mandated to stay where they are hated and despised
- They were encouraged to get out of there and go on to the next place

Note:

1. To shake the dust off of their feet was an action that the Jews used whenever they left a Gentile town or city.
2. It was a way to say we shall have no dealings with you.
3. Shaking the dust symbolizes God's rejection of those who reject HIM.

4. It also symbolizes we have tried to share the good news with you but since you reject it God's wrath be upon you.
5. Shaking the dust off of your feet symbolizes the fact that we wanted to see you become apart of their kingdom, but because you have offended our God, your judgment is destruction.
6. Shaking the dust was a sign against them A testimony against them of their own opportunity to hear the good news and rejection of it.

Note:

On that great judgment day of God, those who have laughed, rejected, ridiculed and made fun of the missionary will be without excuse. Their own testimony will come into the court room of heaven and condemn them for mishandling the servants of God, and rejecting the message of God.

Application:

Christians will face opposition to the work of the kingdom

- Opposition will oppose the good news of Jesus Christ
- Opposition will discourage you from preaching the word
- Opposition will accuse you of many things
- Opposition will hate you for no reason
- Opposition will create obstacles

Oh, but shake the dust off of your feet, against them.

It will be sign against them, a testimony of their own opportunity to hear the good news and to except or reject it.

Conclusion:

12 They went out and **preached that people should repent.**

13 They **drove out many demons** and anointed many sick people **with oil and healed them.**

Mission Completed

1. They preached repentance! They told people to stop doing what they were doing.
2. They warned them to turn around before it was too late.
3. They did not sugar coat the message
4. They did not make it nice and soft
5. They told them what Jesus told them to say, Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand.

Note:

- No one can enter heaven without repenting.
- A drunk must no longer be a drunk.

- A crip must no longer gang bang.
- A thief must no longer steal.
- A liar must stop telling lies.
- A crack addict must stop smoking crack.

A person must surrender their lives to the Lord and by faith accept Jesus as their savior, giving up their old lifestyles.

We must preach repentance, and not apologize for it.

We must never compromise the message of the gospel.

- The disciples took the masters information and ran with it
- They obeyed the word of the Lord
- They accomplished all that HE sent them forth to do
- They came back in victory, and in power
- They saw demons behave
- They commanded them to come out of people and they listened and complied
- They ministered to the sick, and they were made well

Note:

1. This mission opened their eyes to the work of the kingdom
2. The message of the king and the mandate was now upon their lives as they served the Lord in the work of kingdom evangelization.
3. These brothers had been changed
4. These brothers had been moved
5. These brothers had been convinced that they had something to offer the Master for the work of the Kingdom.

Questions:

1. What was God preparing his disciples for and why?
2. What can we learn from this lesson?
3. What does this text teach us about the church and her assignment?

Missionaries needed in Antioch

Acts 11:19-26

Introduction:

The gospel was spreading because of persecution. Trouble was used by God to push HIS people into the world. As they fled for their lives, they proclaimed the good news of Jesus in other cities.

When Jerusalem heard about the growth they sent one of the strong & mature saints to check on the new work that had spread throughout the region. Barnabas was sent to examine the work and to be an encouragement to the people.

God knew that this new work would need some strong leadership, and teachers to help her to grow in HIS grace. Barnabas arrived and needed help, so he went to get Paul to come and to help in the ministry.

22 **Then news of these things came to the ears of the church** in Jerusalem, and they **sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch**

I. The responsibility of a Mother Church

Note:

It appears that all of the Apostles were out on mission, and no one was available but the missionary/evangelist to go and begin this new work.

- According to church history in this text a mother church has a responsibility to follow up on her members.
- When the saints left Jerusalem, they began new ministries as they traveled.
- When they arrived and began a new work, it was sanctioned by the Holy Spirit, and the mother church that they had left from.
- The Church in Jerusalem sent missionaries to check on them and to encourage them in this new work.
- The Church in Jerusalem gives us a model for loving care and concern for her member's whereabouts. She is a picture of support for new mission opportunities and continued evangelism.

Note:

1. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas, to nurse this new-born church, and to strengthen the hands both of preachers and people, and put a reputation of Christ there.

23 When he came and had **seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged** them all that *with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.*

II. Encouragement for a baby Church

- When encouragement (Barnabas) reached the Church of Antioch “Grace was at work “in the fellowship.
- Barnabas saw the grace of God at work in the fellowship; he saw it in the lives of the believers. He took time to observe every area of the life in the church community.
- Grace in their worship, grace in their giving, grace in their living, grace in their service, it was evident that they had been with God.
- He encouraged them all to stay with one heart and focus only on one purpose, serving the Lord.

Note:

A baby Church should look like this. She should not be faced with strife or selfishness. Her innocence should breed excitement and enthusiasm. She should be filled with the Love of God, and glowing with the grace of God. “She should be the picture of a brand new bride” yet on her honey moon.

III. A Good model of leadership for a Church

24 **For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.** *And a great many people were added to the Lord.*

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.26 And when he had found him, **he brought him to Antioch.** So it was that **for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught** a great many people. And the disciples were **first called Christians in Antioch.**

Note:

Missionaries are special people with the ability to communicate the gospel, encourage the new believers, build up the established members and help to sustain structure, doctrine and growth.

They should resemble our Brother Barnabas;

- A missionary should be a good person on the inside and the out, there should be no one able to accuse him/her of anything ungodly
- A missionary should be a person who is full of God and able to bring joy to young Christian as well as the old.
- A missionary should be a soul winner “*A great many people were added to the lord.*”
- He or she looks for others to serve with them in the work
- They have an understanding that they cannot do it all
- They are not a one person show.

- They look for the gifts of others to come and join in what God is doing
- They are committed to seeing the Church grow in Christ
- They are willing to leave home and go to where the Lord leads them

Note:

When Barnabas arrived at the work in Antioch it was more than he could handle himself. He needed some help from a brother so he went to look for Saul. Together they labored for a Whole Year with much Success. Barnabas gets Saul because Saul had great success in this area before in Ministry. (Acts 9:30) These two had some ministry time together under their belts. With Saul Barnabas was well acquainted (Acts 9:27), and probably there was no other brother in that area who could help them on the level that they needed.

Questions:

1. When we help other churches to grow how should we respond?
2. Can God use you as a missionary? Are you available?
3. How difficult is it for others to work together? (See Paul and Barnabas)
4. Does God still send missionaries today?

Opposition on the mission

Acts 13:6-12

Introduction:

The church of Antioch had sent the brothers off to do the work that the Lord had assigned them to do. After prayer and dedication the church launched the new work. Before crossing cultures they went first to the Jews.

I. Satanic Opposition

6 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. *There they met a **Jewish sorcerer** and **false prophet** named Bar-Jesus,*

- The brothers were traveling and spreading the good news of the gospel. The word was spreading across the Island that the messengers of the gospel were in town.
- Messengers always run across messengers. It is inevitable that false doctrine and truth come face to face.
- The truth must show up where lies have been told. God has a way of bring the gospel into situations where people are being misled.
- This sorcerer who using black magic to deceive people, would have to face the miraculous power of God and be defeated.
- This false prophet who was giving people bad information and teaching would have to face the true word of the Lord.

Note:

1. The false-prophet – **had a evil gift** that would be taken for a divine one, because **he was skilled** in the evil arts of divination;
2. This power was inspired from Satan who gave him the ability to tell people their fortune, and to discover things. This false prophets name was **Bar Jesus-the son of salvation.**

(He was a false representative of salvation, and he offered a pseudo faith, miracles, and hope in another savior)

II. Satanic seduction

7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. **The proconsul, an intelligent man,** sent for **Barnabas and Saul** because he **wanted to hear the word of God.**

Note:

At some point and time God arranged for the gentile ruler to hear the rumors of the gospel being preached in his city. When he did so, the brothers were summonsed to proclaim the word.

- When the time was right God gave them an open door to proclaim the word.
- When the time was right God gave the ruler a hunger to hear the truth.
- When the time was right God exposed the lies of the false prophet and gave the truth to the proconsul.
- When the time was right God gave the apostles an open door to preach the word. (*This was His mission they were on*)

8 But **Elymas the sorcerer** (*for that is what his name means*) **opposed them and tried to turn** the proconsul **from the faith.**

- Satanic opposition always comes during and after the preaching of the gospel
- Satanic opposition always comes to turn hearts away from the good news
- Satanic opposition always comes to divert hearers and do evil in their hearts
- Satanic opposition always comes to keep you from obeying and following in the way of the Lord.
- Satanic opposition always comes to keep people from understanding and knowing the will of God for their lives

IV. Satanic Identification

9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, *looked straight at Elymas and said,*

10 "**You are a child of the devil** and an **enemy** of everything that is right! **You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery.** Will you never stop **perverting the right** ways of the Lord?"

- Being able to identify the enemy on the mission is critical.
- Saul has divine insight to see that Satan is responsible for interfering in the proclamation of the word.
- Saul has divine insight to see that the evil one does not want men to be saved.
- Saul has divine insight to see because he is filled with the Holy Spirit (he himself is not in control)
- Saul has divine insight to see because God has given him supernatural understanding to see that they are being opposed by evil himself
- Saul has divine insight to see that as He himself was filled, the false prophet was filled also. This false prophet's spirit was not of the Holy Spirit.
- Saul has divine insight to see that Elymas was full of deceit and trickery.

God always reveals the false prophet's ways to those who are filled with the Holy Ghost. God wants to expose false teaching so that truth can be seen. God chooses to use His messengers to challenge those who are misleading others astray.

III. Satanic seclusion

11 Now **the hand of the Lord** is against you. You are **going to be blind**, and *for a time* you will be unable to see *the light of the sun.*" Immediately **mist and darkness came over him**, and he groped about, *seeking someone to lead him by the hand.*

The evil works of the wicked sorcerer had come to an end, because judgment had to run its course

God has Mercy on him in that he did not wipe him off the face of the earth. (He did not give him what he deserved)

1. **Saul's prophecy** is that the Hand of Lord is against you, because you have fought against HIM
2. **Saul's prophecy** is that the Hand of Lord is against you, because you have tried to oppose what is Holy
3. **Saul's prophecy** is that the Hand of Lord is against you, because you have caused many to believe a lie and to go astray
4. **Saul's prophecy** is that the Hand of Lord is against you, because you never stopped perverting the way of the Lord.

You are **going to be blind**, and *for a time* you will be unable to see *the light of the sun.*

The judgment for his action is heavy;

- *Since he kept others from seeing the spiritual light, he would now not see the physical light*
- *Since he kept others from seeing the spiritual light, he would now have to walk in darkness*
- *Since he kept others from seeing the spiritual light, he would now know what it was like to suffer in darkness and to live in bondage*
- *Since he kept others from seeing the spiritual light, He would now learn that he too needed eyes to see what he could not see.*

Conclusion:

12 When the **proconsul saw what had happened**, he **believed**, for he was **amazed at the teaching** about the **Lord**.

1. It was the word of the Lord that He wanted to hear, and the power of God was revealed before his eyes
2. It was the word that drew him in and the miracle that compelled him to come to faith
3. It was the word of God that amazed Him, and the authority of the Apostles that persuaded Him

4. Hearing, seeing, and believing made him a good witness of the gospel.
5. God would use this event to secure faith in the life of this gentile ruler.

Question:

1. How does Satan attempt to destroy the works of Christ and His Church?
2. How can you identify satanic opposition in the work of ministry?

A Man on a Mission

Mark 1:1-8

1:1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way

3 a voice of one calling in the desert,

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'

4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Intro:

There was complete silence in heaven; God had not said a word to mankind. 400 years of silence, no prophets, no proclamation, no demonstration of HIS power and no miracles to point man to himself. God was silent.

The office of the priesthood was in order; organized religion was the event of the day. People were going through the motions with God, the Pharisees and Sadducees had polluted the temple, and made a mockery out of the Old Covenant. God's people were without a witness, **and then came John!**

Isaiah had prophesied that before the coming of the messiah, a voice would be heard crying in the wilderness, "make straight the way of the Lord".

This was important because Rome was building roads throughout the world, and idolatry was filling the earth. But John came as one who was building a new road, one in which the **King of Glory was going to travel on.**

1. John **was a voice** from heaven,
2. John **was a voice** of salvation,
3. John **was a voice** of help for the helpless,
4. John was a sight for sore eyes, and he came and fulfilled scripture by pointing the way to the messiah.

John came out of nowhere, John came out of the back roads of Judea, his beginnings were humble, were isolated, as he studied in the desert (no-one knew of his school)

1. When John came he came **on fire**
2. When John came He came **with intensity**
3. When John came he came in an **un-orthodox manner**, but He came in power.
4. He was just like an Old Testament prophet who struck passion in the heart of the hearers.
5. He was just like an Old Testament prophet who struck fear in the minds on the multitudes
6. He was just like an Old Testament prophet who had a word from the Lord.

Note:

What the Prophet Isaiah said would come had finally come, "A voice of one crying in the wilderness".

- John was a witness for Christ
- John's task was to be a witness in the New Testament by God
- He was a prophet from the Old Covenant but a voice in the New Covenant
- John's task was to make a highway for Jesus to enter into and begin His Ministry (**a spiritual highway**)

Application:

1. John's ministry is what ours is to be as a church.
2. We are called to be modern day John's calling out to a dying world, warning them of the Savior to come, calling for all to come to Jesus while they have a chance.
3. We are to build spiritual highways for others to come to Jesus
4. This is our sole responsibility as a Church. Preparing a way for others to come to Jesus.

Background:

Who was John

1. The bible teaches that John was of the priestly tribe by both of his parents.
2. His father, Zechariah, was a priest of the division of Abijah, and his mother, Elizabeth, was one of the daughters of Aaron"
3. His birth was a miraculous intervention of the almighty. (a miracle baby)
4. John's ministry was foretold by an angel sent from God, who at the same time assigned to him the name of **John**.
5. He was born in the hill country of Judea, six months before the birth of our Lord Jesus.
6. John was the cousin of Jesus by birth
7. **John's name** meant *Jehovah's Gift*

4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

I. What was John's Mission

- **John's mission was first to come into the world as a messenger of God. His name tells us he was a gift from God.**
 1. From the beginning of time He was created for **this mission**. The witness of John was given that men might believe. He was God's gift to humanity, to prepare the way for Christ.
 2. John's mission was to witness to the world not to the Christ. (**A gift sent from God to the world**) Jesus needs no one to witness of Him. He is God, He can witness of himself.
 3. John's mission was to be God's ambassador to a fallen world to make way for the coming king.
 4. **John's mission was to be a voice in the world for Christ.**
 5. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus, by preaching the baptism of repentance.

Note:

John was like the night watchman that goes round the town, proclaiming the coming light of the morning light. Some have closed their eyes, and are not willing themselves to see it.

He was sent of God to tell the world that the long-looked-for Messiah was now come, which would be a light to the Gentiles and the glory of his people Israel; **John came to testify** that Jesus was truly the light of the world, so that all people might put their trust in Him.

II. What was John's Message

The message of John was unlike the message of the day. He didn't preach what the Pharisee's preached, He didn't preach what the scribes preached, he didn't preach what the eastern religions preached, He preached about the coming Messiah of Israel, and the need to accept Him as their King and God.

- John came to preach the baptism of repentance.
- John came to point the people to repentance, and prepare them, to receive the cleansing of their souls through Christ.
- John's message was to show people how to confess their sins and turn from them.
- John's message moved people to be baptized and confess their sins, and make the first step towards receiving Jesus Christ.

Note:

The results of John's message caused the hearers to do five things.

1. Prepare to Repent and turn from their sins
2. Prepare for the baptism to come from the messiah
3. Prepare their minds for the coming Kingdom of God
4. Prepare to depart from the religions of the world
5. **Prepare the way for Jesus**

Application:

The Mission, and Message of the Church

1. We are sent witnesses of Christ and for Christ,
2. We are modern day messengers called to witness to men and women lost in darkness about the light.
3. We are to prepare a spiritual highway for non-believers to come to the lord.
 - On the job, we tell the story
 - At home, we tell the story
 - In the community, we tell the story
 - At play, we tell the story
 - Where ever people are, we tell the story

We are called to witness for Jesus, and prepare the way of His return, by bringing in those who are lost and without a personal relationship with Him.

Application for the church

- Christ can use a faithful witness like John
- Christ can use a humble witness like John
- Christ can use a devoted witness like John
- Christ can use a church who lives like John lived

Note:

It was the messenger's focus to proclaim the way of Jesus who was to come into the world. There were other "so called saviors that had come and gone" **But John would represent the true savior.**

- Jesus would show men the way for eternal life.
- Jesus was coming that all men would be given life.
- This does not mean that all men have received knowledge of Christ, nor does it mean that all have heard about him, But rather that when Christ came He would come for all men, regardless of race, money, or nationality.

Keys to preparing the way

1. The Preacher ought to have a Spiritual hunger for God
2. The Preacher ought to be Spiritually sensitive to the mission of God
3. The Preacher ought to be Sick of the world and what it has to offer
4. The Preacher ought to be a Sold out saint to sanctification

5. The Preacher ought to be Serious about spiritual matters
6. The Preacher ought to be Saved and set a flame with the Holy Ghost
7. The Preacher ought to be Saint who is a living sacrifice (dying daily to themselves)

Note:

- John was called before birth to prepare the way for Christ.
- **Christians are called** before birth to witness for Jesus.
- John was separated from the customs of the world.
- **Christians are called** to come out from among the world's customs. (Gambling, sinful pleasures, wickedness etc.)
- John was called to go against the thought of the day.
- **Christians are called** to pull down the strong hold of worldly philosophies and ideas.
- We are to resemble our brother (John Baptist) by living out our faith in this wicked culture, pointing men to the Light that has shine abroad in our hearts.

Conclusion

- As God called John, He is calling you,
- As God assigned John He is assigning you
- As God used John, He will use you
- As God enabled John, He will enable you
- As God filled John, he will fill you
- As God moved John, He will move you

Note:

1. John fulfilled the call on his life, what about you?
2. John embraced the will of the Lord, what about you?
3. John submitted to voice of God, what about you?
4. John heard, he moved, he obeyed, what about you?

- **Jesus came, and John was right**
- **Jesus came, just as John had said**
- **When Jesus came he too was on a mission**
- **Jesus came, and the masses repented**
- **Jesus came, and many got new life**
- **Jesus came, and the world has not been the same**
- **Jesus came, and the blind got to see**
- **Jesus came, and the deaf got to hear**
- **Jesus came, and the cripple got to walk**
- **Jesus came, and the demon possessed got freed**

When Jesus came, he completed his mission at the cross of Calvary where he died for the sins of the world, that men may have a right to the tree of life. Jesus mission was to set man free from sin. Jesus mission was to be buried, and rise again from the dead, that all who believe may have everlasting life.