

show his credentials. His word will be of no weight unless it is understood to be the word of the monarch who sends him. It is not his own standing, but that of the power he represents, which gives him his influence. The Lord Jesus showed himself "mighty in word and in deed," and his messengers must do the same. So he gave them "authority over unclean spirits," and also "to cure diseases." Luke 9. 1. We can fancy Peter and John coming to some village. The news goes round that two of the followers of Jesus are come. They preach in his name to the crowd that surrounds them. But there are sick ones there, and sufferers vexed with evil spirits—can they help these? Yes. As boldly as they bade men repent, so confidently do they command the spirits, and bid the sick arise and walk. And the name, not of Peter and John, but of Jesus their Lord, is glorified. And as surely as any servant of Christ now goes forth to do the work given him, in the Master's name, and for the Master's glory, he will find that authority and power are with him.

3. The directions given them.

There are three in this gospel—all, probably, given at this time, while Matthew adds others which may have been spoken later on, and which have reference to the work of the apostles after our Lord's ascension.

(a) To make no provisions for their temporal wants on the journey. They were not going far, nor among strange people, and all their actual needs could be met without thought or trouble on their own part. Their ordinary clothing was sufficient—no travelling shoes needed—not even a staff, should there be none at hand. Comp. Matt. 10. 10. To load themselves with provisions or extra clothing would encumber them, just as heavy luggage would a tourist out on a short holiday—or, rather, a soldier on a short expedition. For the more distant and difficult work to come a proper exercise of forethought was later on enjoined. See Luke 22. 36. The lesson for Christ's servants at all times is to be unincumbered with worldly things—without carefulness—at leisure to pursue their Master's business.

(b) To remain in the house they should first be received. The advantage of such a course is evident. Men would know where to find them; they would not lose time in going to and fro; it was proper courtesy toward those who welcomed them; and the house where they had lodged might become a place whence the light should afterwards radiate to others. The Master would have his servants steady in their work as well as in their walk.

(c) To shake off the dust from their feet against that city which did not receive them. We read twice in Acts of this symbolic action, or a similar one, being performed. Acts 13.

51; 18. 6. If sinners will not hear the glad tidings, nor heed the warning voice, the guilt is their own. Christ's servants are free of the responsibility. A terrible thought for those who will not hear!

4. Their success.

They did the work they were sent to do. Going forth in faith, they found that the power of the Master rested upon them. The sick were healed, the evil spirits cast out, the Gospel preached. That was the sowing time; the harvest had not yet come. And the sowing time is not yet over. The same Master calls for faithful ones to go forth on his work. He gives the same provision—the prayer and sympathy of his people, and his own presence and power. He gives the same directions to unincumberedness and steadiness. He absolves the faithful messenger from the burden of souls that will not listen. And those who try it will find there is no more delightful employment upon the earth than the service of the Lord.

BEREAN METHODS.

Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Draw a sketch-map of Galilee and its sea, showing the location of Capernaum and Nazareth... The privilege which Nazareth had enjoyed... Christ's former visit to Nazareth and his treatment... His love for his own people... His treatment on this occasion, and what it showed... What the Nazarenes lost... The commands to the twelve. (Compare Matt 10.)... The spirit of Christ: (1) Love; (2) Desire to bless; (3) Willingness to work; (4) Surprise at human unbelief; (5) Zeal for saving souls; (6) Skill in adapting means to his end... The spirit of the Gospel preacher. (See Analytical and Biblical Outline.)... The preaching of the Gospel. (See Additional Practical Lessons.)... What are the duties presented by this lesson?... The discouragements, the demands, the duties of the Gospel ministry... ILLUSTRATIONS. Great men rising from lowly condition, for example, Lincoln, Garfield, etc.... The dome of St. Peter's lofty as it is, cannot be seen from the ground in front of the cathedral, being cut off from view by the roof. So greatness needs distance to make it visible... The burning lens sets on fire by concentrating the sun's rays at one point. God's ministers and workers need to fix all their power upon the one purpose of reaching souls.

References. FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA OF ILLUSTRATIONS: Ver. 3, Prose, 128, 2043; Poetical, 2086. Ver. 4, Prose, 9600. Ver. 6, 3261, 5601. Ver. 7, 10543. Ver. 8, 10535. Ver. 11, 4695. Ver. 12, 4964. Ver. 13, 10551... FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK: The synagogue, 636; Staff, 256; Scrip, 256; The purse, 653;