

Can you relate to the Church of Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)?

- Maybe they began to lose their awe of God
- Maybe they became too familiar with and fairly cold toward Christ's gospel.
- Maybe they filled the head with Truth but not the heart with the God of Truth.
- Maybe they argued about the Word but weren't affectionate for the LORD.
- Maybe they cherished theological precision but not regular, divine communion.

Background to Mark 5-6

- If Mark 5 was the chapter of ***Faith***; then Mark 6 is the chapter of ***No-Faith***.

I. WATCH YOUR HEART! (1-6)

A. the meaning (in context)

B. Consider yourself: put yourself in this *narrative*.

David Guzik says: It is wonderful to think that our Lord—of all the professions He could have been—chose to be a carpenter. God is a builder, and He knows how to build in our lives—and He knows how to finish the job.. A few things Jesus learned as a carpenter:

- (1) He learned that there is a lot of potential in a log.
- (2) He learned it takes work and time to make something useable.
- (3) He learned that the finest things are made from the hardest wood.

“Son of Mary” — This was not a compliment. “The additional phrase ‘the son of Mary’ is probably disparaging. It was contrary to Jewish usage to describe a man as the son of his mother, even when she was a widow, except in insulting terms. Rumors to the effect that Jesus was illegitimate appear to have circulated in his own lifetime and may lie behind this reference as well.” (William Lane)

Mark 6:1-13 — "A Caution of Familiarity & the Mission with Urgency"

As Warren Wiersbe says "Two things astonished these people: His mighty works and His wonderful wisdom. Actually, Jesus did not do any mighty works while He was there, so the people must have been referring to the reports they had heard about His miracles (see Mark 1:28, 45; Mk 3:7-8; Mk 5:20-21). In fact, their unbelief hindered Jesus from having a greater ministry among them."

Applications

- Extol the Glory of Jesus
- Be humble, moldable and obedient
- learn of Christ but don't lose your awe of Christ.

We must not lose our dazzling wonder at the amazing beauty of Jesus.

II. KNOW YOUR MISSION! (7-13)

THE PURPOSE of this mission is three-fold:

1. EVANGELISTIC - for the sake of the lost; to save them
2. EDIFYING - for the sake of the 12; to train them in soul-winning
3. EXALTING - for God's sake; to glorify & magnify Him.

A. the meaning (in context) (extended in Matthew 10!)

Shaking dust off their feet: to declare the place to be pagan and make it clear that those who reject this message must now answer for themselves before God. They've rejected God's message; now they're on their own to face God's judgment. (Mark Wessel)

B. For you and me today:

remember this:

1. SENT OUT! - Matt 28; Acts 1; 1 Pet 2; 2 Cor 5
2. HE'LL PROVIDE! - Phil 4; 1 Tim 6; Ps 145; Matt 6
3. YOUR MESSAGE! - 1 Tim 2.4-5; 1 John 5.11-13!

WE OFTEN TALK ABOUT GETTING PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH , but we must GO OUT — and we are SENT — and we are to PROCLAIM that all men must repent!

Applications

- go with urgency - GO NOW!
- go with dependency - I'll PROVIDE!
- go with humility - NOT YOU; BUT ME.
- go with fidelity - BE FAITHFUL TO ME

Think about the connection & importance of these accounts:

1. Familiarity can breed contempt! Beware!
2. Jesus sends his own out calling all to repent! Go Forth!
 - So we must increase our affectionate love FOR Christ
 - So that we GO OUT and SPEAK FORTH the gospel CONCERNING Christ!

IF you feel that you — like the Ephesian church — have “left your first love,” then consider some of these real practical points of implementation. Try them *this week*.

- ★1) Write out WHO God is and WHAT God has done. Thank & praise Him *carefully & individually for each thing you write out*. (write out as much as you can: worship/praise/thank).
- ★2) Read a hymn each day & pick a doctrine/truth/phrase & take it with you all day (Gadsby, Trinity, Grace hymnal)
- ★3) Get a Psalter & sing a Psalm each day (Trinity Psalter, Isaac Watts Songs from the Psalms; Psalms.SeedBed.Com ****Superb****// pick a verse & chew on it all day.
- ★4) Listen to Samuel Rutherford last week on Loveliness of Christ (BannerofTruth/Amazon) or **Gracegems: << <https://www.gracegems.org/1/Jesus.htm> >> *superb resource***
- ★5) Study the Attributes of God (1 a day) — Precept Austin; AW Tozer; Paul Washer; Steve Lawson.
- ★6) Meet w/ a fellow believer (CFBC member) and **read Ephesians 1, Philippians 3, Colossians 1, Hebrews 1 together and rejoice!**

A CHARGE TO KEEP I HAVE

By Charles Wesley

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill:
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And O Thy servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely,
Oh, let me not my trust betray,
But press to realms on high.