

**Jesus sends the twelve:** Confidence for going where he asks 8/7/07

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### **Matthew 10:1-33**

When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples to **heal** the sick, **raise** the dead, **cleanse** lepers and **cast out** demons. Just reading that list of instructions sounds a bit daunting. I can imagine some of the 12 saying - Jesus isn't this, what you're supposed to be doing, I thought we had just come along to learn from you, and see what you're doing!

As a church I believe we have been given a similar task and our task is to **go into Aylesbury and show people Jesus, demonstrate the kingdom of God.**

The amazing thing is the twelve actually did what Jesus asked!

**What gave them the confidence to do that?**

#### **1. He called them**

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We see this in verse 1 - he had **called them** together as disciples. Earlier in Matthew he says to them *"follow me and I will make you fishers of men"*.

Being chosen is great, it brings confidence, being chosen by someone great for a purpose is brings even more confidence - you feel that they have seen something in you.

**Every work for God starts with a call.** It has huge significance - don't underestimate it. **Gideon** gets it through an Angel (Judges 6:11-12)

**Each of us has a calling in God**, we may not see a burning bush or get an angel speaking. Each of us as followers of Jesus has a call to, put very simply to "catch people" for God - there will be many different ways of doing that.

In 2 Peter 1: 10 he encourages us to **make our calling sure** and then we will never fail.

God knows us, he made us, **he would not call us to something we couldn't do.**

As part of this church you have also been called. God often works with groups of people not just individuals.

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#### **2. He gave them authority**

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Jesus didn't just call them to do this; he also gave them **authority** to do it. You need to be given authority to do something, but you also need to take up your authority to do it.

**Gideon** - when he was given authority he initially gave loads of excuses.

- > past bad stuff - not the same as in the old days (:13) God says - I have sent you isn't that enough?
- > I am the weakest of the weak (:15) God says - I will be with you
- > Gideon also wanted signs and God gave him them - an angel setting food on fire, wet and dry fleeces. Jesus did the same for the twelve...

#### **3. He had taught them about and showed them the Kingdom**

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Between when they were called and when they were sent, you will see Jesus first **teaching** them about the principles of the Kingdom of and then secondly he **demonstrates** these principles.

Things have happened with us in the same way. It's amazing, when we think about it, what God has done in our midst, doesn't that give you confidence to go?

Look what happened to **Gideon** - when he responded to the call and took up the authority God gave him: he defeated the Midianites in a very creative and amazing way, against all the odds!

#### **What are we waiting for?**

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God could call you today to be part of us and build this church. He could be calling you to a particular task...

God could be reminding you of the authority you have to do this task - he may be challenging you to take up the authority he has given to you.

He may be encouraging you with what has happened - the signs are there if you look for them.