

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The word of God that we consider for this morning is found in the Gospel of Mark 6:7-13.

“And He called the twelve to *Himself*, and began to send them out two *by two*, and gave them power over unclean spirits. 8 He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff -- no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts -- 9 but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics. 10 Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. 11 "And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!" 12 So they went out and preached that *people* should repent. 13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.”

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

As you see me dressed before you today would you think that I'm equipped to climb to the summit of Mount Everest? My thin leather wingtip shoes and polyester socks wouldn't have no chance in keeping my feet warm. Although I have wool slacks on they are intended for every day dress and for not making it passed the so called 'death zone' of Mount Everest. I have no insulated clothing what-so-ever. I don't even have bottled oxygen which is essential required passed 26,246 feet. Yes, one must come to the conclusion that I'm poorly equipped as I stand before you today to climb to the summit of Mount Everest.

Before I would confidently climb such a mountain I would need to have confidence in my supplies. I would certainly want boots that would keep my feet warm. I would want climbing spikes to grip the compacted snow so I wouldn't slip and fall to my death. I would desire clothing that would guard me from the incredibly cold temperatures and of course that tank of oxygen. Having confidence in my equipment would be of the utmost importance to me even if I actually had the physical ability to take on such a task.

Having confidence in our supplies as Christians is even more important than the tools used in climbing even the most dangerous mountain in the world. Without that confidence we will begin to look away from the Jesus and begin looking for anything that will fill that void. In our text for today Jesus was teaching His Apostles a lesson, a lesson that we need to head as well, **“Jesus is our only supply.”**

When Jesus sent out the twelve, that is the Apostles, He did it in this way **“And He called the twelve to *Himself*.”** In this simple statement we see something that would make or break the Apostles journey. Before Jesus sent them out He needed to equip them. Therefore Jesus called them to His side to do that very thing.

The fact that the Apostles didn't know the will of Jesus and the fact that they didn't have the tools already in hand to go on the journey is telling for us. Without being sent and being equipped by God we

will all fail on our journey. 1 Cor. 2:14 **“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

The kinds of supplies or equipment we're supplied with by nature are 100% in opposition to God. What we are supplied with from our very conception are the tools of our original father and mother Adam and Eve. Because of that we are not mindful of the things of God and only desire to serve ourselves instead of the Kingdom of God.

I know for sure that some of you have had this brought to life recently in your witnessing. I wouldn't be surprised to find out that every one of you has had this experience in talking with someone. That is the complete and utter rejection of God in every way. Being told that 'Yes I started to read the Bible but threw it in the corner because it's a bunch of garbage.' And the response that you Christians have had the wool pulled over your eyes.

But Satan is crafty. He is working on the church with the hope of having us gradually look away from Jesus as our only supply. He sets the question in our minds 'is our congregation growing'? If not a church might ask itself, why not? And what can we do about it to get more people in the pews? Nothing is wrong with asking the question but a very typical response in our times is one that is not looking upon Jesus as our only supply.

People today have an issue with so called 'organized religion'. So what has been the response? Take down any indicator of being affiliated with anything. So the sign out front would end up reading, "St. John's Evangelical Church." No Lutheran. There would be no statement in regards to belonging to a group of believers who call themselves the "Church of the Lutheran Confession." Nothing to show a rich heritage of "Grace alone, Scripture alone, faith alone." Would we then take down the cross because people find it to be an offense because of the horrible bloody scene that took place? Should we strip the sanctuary of all Christian symbols to sterilize it to make it more welcoming to people who take issue with those things. Should we remove the lectern and the pulpit because it reminds people of the authority of Scripture as being the word of God? And then finally Satan would love overjoyed in having the word itself drift into the background and when it is preached it is done falsely.

I'm in no way saying that a congregation needs to have all of these things. When I first joined the CLC congregation in Bismarck, ND we used to meet in the basement of an electrical co-op. Sitting on folding chairs with an alter made out of folded cardboard boxes and a thin piece of plywood covered by a white cloth. But Jesus was our only supply.

Jesus in our text for today was showing the Apostles, preparing the Apostles for their ministry by showing them in a very vivid way this lesson that He, Jesus is our only supply. **“He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff -- no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts -- 9 but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.”**

What better way to show the Apostles what would truly effect the work of the Kingdom of God. Stripping the Apostles of all the wants of temporal life and sending them out into the mission field equipped with the simple Gospel of Jesus.

The simple Gospel. John 3:16,17 "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**"

This simple message is our only supply. The faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

The message that you received when water was poured on your head and you received faith by the power of the word of God, 'Be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

The message you received during your upbringing that you're a sinner but that Jesus Christ was your only supply because He died for your sins. The message that you received in Catechism class in further instructing and equipping you in Jesus as your only supply. The week to week preaching of Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin. The message that I pray you all consume on a daily basis in being reminded that you can do nothing of yourselves that in Christ you find your worth in the eyes of God the Father.

And finally then having been equipped by others through the word who knew Jesus as their only supply you're taking the same messages into the world. Not a week watered down message of universalism. But a strong confident message, shown to you by Christ when He stripped you of all your self-worth by the Law yet turning around and properly equipping you by faith in Him and His message of Salvation that He is your only supply.

Go out into the world with the same simple message that the Apostles did, "**So they went out and preached that *people* should repent.**" With this message on your heart and tongue you cannot fail because the Lord promised to do with His word what He chooses.

And when you have success know that Jesus was the one that fitted and equipped you with power like His own. A power foreign to mankind yet inherent to Jesus because He is the Son of God who has taken away the sins of the world, your sins because "**Jesus is our only supply.**" Amen.