

## The Four Gospels of the Bible, 12 to Preach & Heal

### Luke 9:1-6

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had called the twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (NIV)

*Jesus now called the Twelve and gave them authority and power to deal with all the demons and cure diseases. He commissioned them to preach the news of God's kingdom and heal the sick. He said, "Don't load yourselves up with equipment. Keep it simple; you are the equipment. And no luxury inns—get a modest place and be content there until you leave. If you're not welcomed, leave town. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and move on." Commissioned, they left. They traveled from town to town telling the latest news of God, the Message, and curing people everywhere they went.*

### Commissioned

A commission is an authorization to do some specific things. For the disciples, the specific things were to be carried out with "power and authority to drive out demons and to cure diseases". Dealing with demons and demons seems unbelievable in that both are mysterious and imposing. Demons or demonic powers are powerful beyond our understanding and experience. Disease may have been more of a fear depending on the degree of preventive and corrective care or medicine and the type of disease. In all, the "specific things" were daunting to be sure.

### Keep it simple

If it can kept, then by all means, keep it simple. But these disciples were definitely stepping on faith; they were depending on the promise and commitment of God to supply their needs right down to the place where they would stay. Depending on God by faith, they were to accept what God had provided for the length and location of their stay. While the commission seemed daunting in every way, their response was in total faith that led to "telling the news..." and "curing people everywhere they went."