

- Luke 9:1** And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,
- Luke 9:2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.
- Luke 9:3** And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.
- Luke 9:4** And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart.
- Luke 9:5** And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.”
- Luke 9:6** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.
- Luke 9:7** Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead,
- Luke 9:8** by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen.
- Luke 9:9** Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him.

**Luke 9:1** And he called the twelve together and **gave them power and authority** over all demons and to cure diseases,

**Luke 9:2** and to heal. **he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God**

The saints being sent out by the Lord need to pay attention to

1. Who we are: How much Christ has been constituted in us and how much faith we have in the Lord (the degree of power and authority over the demons and to cure the “diseases”), because we are going to have a spiritual warfare with Satan who controls the world in the air and on the ground. To proclaim the Lord and His word as the gospel is not “cheap” and needs us to pay high cost;
2. What are our charges and burdens: They are not our missions to do something, but rather for us to release the charges and burdens given to us by the Lord and led by the Lord. When these operations are being carried out, we must be in Him, with Him, for Him and to Him.
3. We need to check the effectiveness and results of these operations driven by the Lord’s charges and burdens: These operations must have goals; A. Do we enjoy and gain Christ and how much? B. Do others enjoy and gain Christ and how much (to heal)? Do the testimonies of the churches (kingdom of God) increase?
4. A good measure of our growth is whether our faith in the Lord increases year after year.

**Luke 9:3 And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.**

**Jesus was training His disciples to preach the gospel. It is interesting that He did not train them in what to say, but rather in who they were (their person). To preach the gospel is not just to speak some words to people, but a matter of knowing the Lord Himself, and depending on Him.**

**When we preach the gospel, we may often be concerned about what we should say, and how we should say, or how we may have to answer questions, or how little of the Bible we actually know. Are we rather concerned about how one we are with the Lord? Do we rely on our staff (for example, our knowledge or experience, that is, something that we can lean on?) Do we rely on our bag (for example, a number of Bible verses that we can use to answer questions people may have)? Do we rely on our money, how much we have or do not have? Do we participate in the financial grace offering? If we cannot offer to the Lord what the Lord has given to us, how will we be able to receive a burden from the Lord to preach the gospel? Do we rely on our bread? Do we trust the Lord for our living? Do we rely on our second tunic? Do we depend on the Lord that He will provide everything we need for our living? We need to be diligent to pay attention to all these things, but our reliance or dependence is on the Lord Himself. Do we pray before we preach the gospel, to be one with the Lord, to empty ourselves of all our concerns for ourselves, so we can follow the Lord's leading, anointing and burden to seek the lost sheep?**

**Luke 9:4 And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart.**

Jesus told His disciples to stay in a house, and then depart. The disciples were not to stay in a house indefinitely, but they were to depart to go to another house etc. This is the principle of preaching the gospel: to preach the gospel to new people, regardless of whether one person or one home is very open and desires us to stay with them.

To preach the gospel is not easy. We may face many rejections. When we find one or two persons who are open to receive the gospel and fellowship with us, we may like to stay with them, to shepherd them and raise them up. We certainly need to do this. We may spend a lot of time reading the Bible, praying with people, shepherding them and taking care of their human needs. This is wonderful. Eventually, some may not be interested anymore, or may not want to meet with us anymore. It is easy to be kidnapped by these ones (this is not to criticize them) and to be discouraged. If we stop preaching the gospel and only focus on taking care of a few new people, we will become discouraged. However, if we continue to preach the gospel to seek the lost sheep, our burden for people will be fresh and we may not be so discouraged. When we stop preaching the gospel because we are caring for people, we may actually be hurting ourselves. That is why Jesus commanded His disciples to depart from a house, irrespective of the warm reception they may have given them. We also need to "depart" from people to sow the seed and to go to the mountain to seek the lost sheep.

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**Luke 9:6** And they departed and **went through the villages**, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Luke 9:3 tells us that it is not concerning whether the sent ones have the money or not to proclaim the gospel, but rather concerning whether they have the Lord or not.

It is crucial to know that

1. To have a charge and burden to be sent out to proclaim the Lord is a service concerning our faith and knowing that the Lord is responsible to provide everything, and that we may not live comfortably outwardly;
2. The Lord will provide us the things required for our living,
3. It is healthy to teach and fellowship with the saints that financial grace offering is their testimony to the Lord and an essential operation to spread the gospel, and a normal appreciation to the serving ones who serve us **(unfortunately, not many saints have the clear understanding and burden to teach such a grace;**
4. Preaching the gospel needs to be in every place around us; then the people will be blessed by receiving the Lord (healing everywhere).

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**Luke 10:11** ‘Even **the dust of your town** that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.’

It is crucial to know that

1. The dust is from the earth, of the world and not of Christ,
2. During our living we need to pay attention to such “dusts” to be cleaned off of our life.

## What is the dust?

**Acts 13:50** But the **Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city**, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

**Acts 13:51** But they **shook off the dust** from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

To shake off the dust on the feet means to clean oneself and stay away from the uncleanness of the people who do not believe Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas did this to the people, indicating that they regarded these Jews as Gentiles since they did not accept the gospel and will not be considered as the sanctified people of God.

## **What shall we practice? Wash one another's feet.**

**John 13:8** Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” **Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share (part) with me.”**

**John 13:14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you also ought to wash one another's feet.**

All the saints sent out by the Lord are characterized by the dust on their feet. If there is no dust on their feet, then they lose the characteristics of being a Lord's testimony preacher and spreader. The preachers will not just sit at home or in the church gatherings to be with the saints, rather go out on the road to spread the gospel and Lord's testimony. Once they do that and will have meet and have the dust on their feet, then the Lord subjectively experienced and gained inside of them will shake off these dusts. In contrast, the heavenly vision of those who do not follow the Lord's fresh leading to go out proclaim the Lord as gospel will be blinded by the dusts in their hearts.

**Luke 9:5** And **wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet** as a testimony against them.”

Luke 9:5 tells us that it is not easy to preach the gospel (**they do not receive you**).

What does it mean “When you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet” ? I would like to give an example from one angle:

Dust means the dust of the earth by which Adam was made. I would consider that the dust here indicates the worldly things. For example, when we went out to preach the gospel, we may have entered into a big and beautiful house. Inside we met the wealthy and kind home owners and very smart children studying in very good schools, but they did not accept the gospel. When we came out of their house, if their big and beautiful house and their children’s very good schools did not attract us at all, this shows our testimony in the Lord which is to shake the dust of this house from our feet since the Lord is the true essence, value and reality of our gospel. We do not have anything against the people in that house, but rather against Satan’s world which reigns in that house.

**Luke 9:7** Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, **Luke 9:8** by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen.

**Luke 9:9** Herod said, “John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him.

**Did Herod really want to find Jesus? Or was he simply curious about the miracles that Jesus and His disciples were performing? Herod surrounded himself with people who did not know Jesus, and who brought varying reports of who Jesus was. Herod had even killed John the Baptist, a messenger who had told him to repent.**

**With whom do we surround ourselves? Sometimes, we may surround ourselves with friends or even believers who have different opinions about Jesus. Do we surround ourselves with saints who read the Bible, who know Jesus, who can be our pattern, and who can bring the word of God to us? Even more, when we do surround ourselves with such saints, do we listen to them? Do we listen to Christ's speaking in them? Herod did not listen to John the Baptist but had him beheaded (v.9). What about us? Do we listen to the servants of God who speak to us, to lead us to know Christ Himself, and to know brothers and sisters who know Christ? Are we seeking Christ to know Him, or are we merely seeking Him for Him to perform some miracle in our life (to give us a good job or a good grade)?**

**Luke 9:7** Now **Herod the tetrarch** “ **Herod Antipas (ruled 4 B.C.-A.D. 39)** ” heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead,

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**We need to pray for those politicians.**

**1Tim.2:1, 2** First of all, then, **I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions**, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

**We need to preach the gospel to the politicians.**

**Acts 26:28** And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you **persuade me to be a Christian?**”

**We need to subject ourselves to the authorities in every human institution.**

**1 Peter 2:13** **Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,**

## Five “king Herods” in the Bible

1. **Herod the Great (ruled 37- 4 B.C.)** He tried to trick the wise men and **killed the babies in and around Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16)**.
2. **Herod Archelaus (ruled 4 B.C.- A.D. 6)** He was one of Herod the Great’s three sons mentioned in the Bible. **He reigned near Jerusalem (Judea and Samaria)**. Joseph was unwilling to move Mary and toddler Jesus to Bethlehem after fleeing to Egypt **because Bethlehem was in this Herod’s territory (Matt. 2:22)**. He was replaced by a Roman procurator less than ten years into his reign; that’s why Pontius Pilate was in charge at Jesus’ crucifixion.
3. **Herod Antipas (ruled 4 B.C.- A.D. 39) Herod the tetrarch; He was the ruler of Galilee and Perea**. Jesus called him “the Fox” (**Luke 13:32**). Divorced his first wife and married Herodias, the wife of his brother (who was yet a different “Herod”). **Killed John the Baptist (Matt. 14:1-12)**. Pontius Pilate sent Jesus to see this Herod as part of Jesus’ trial since this Herod was visiting Jerusalem at the time Jesus was sentenced to death.
4. **Herod Agrippa I (ruled A.D. 37- 44 [41-44 in Judea])** Grandson of Herod the Great and nephew of Herodias. In Acts he is known as the one who put Peter in prison (**Acts 12:1-5**). Also...“He did not give God the glory” and was thus struck by an angel and “eaten by worms” (**Acts 12:20-23**).
5. **Herod Agrippa II (ruled A.D. 50s until long after the end of the Jewish war; died around A.D. 93)** He interviewed Paul along with the Roman procurator Porcius Festus when Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea after Paul’s third missionary journey (**Acts 25-26**). Agrippa exclaimed to Paul: “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian” (**Acts 26:28**).