

"FARTHER THAN WE THINK, IN THE RUSH OF THE WIND!"
JULY 4, 2021 - THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
EZEKIEL 2:1-5; 2 CORINTHIANS 12:2-10; MARK 6:1-13
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Have you ever started a task, a project, an assignment, an appointment, thinking you knew what was required of you, only to find out you had to do more? Even simple things like baking in the kitchen, may require more ingredients and more clean up than you think. Mowing the lawn is great; trimming the yard requires more. Painting makes everything like new, only if you pay attention to each corner and every little detail. Parenting, careers, financial security all can require more than you think at first. Today as we are reminded Jesus clearly sends us out two by two; we are also reminded discipleship, apostleship, keeping the faith and sharing a faithful witness always require us to go farther than we may think. Feel the rush of The Wind, trust and celebrate, God in Jesus Christ has gone farther than anyone of us would have imagined possible!

1. As followers of Jesus Christ, feel the rush of The Wind and believe, we will be sent to go farther than we think when it comes to apostleship and discipleship. Ezekiel 2:4-5; Mark 6:1-4,7
 - A. Commitment, obedience, service, conviction, stewardship, proclamation, devotion, faithfulness, doing what God asks of us, and going where God sends us, will require us often to go farther than we think. The rush of The Wind will give us courage to go outside of our comfort zone.
 - B. We are sent "two by two," and 'we have been given authority.'
 - i. Items, information and people are sent every day for the sake of getting things done; to inform, to announce, to advocate, to proclaim, to teach, to invite, to console.
 - ii. Items, information and people are sent by express, first class, special delivery, insured, and certification.
 - iii. We are sent every day with the rush of The Wind to go farther than we think in the power and grace of Jesus.
 - a. To pray, to serve, to anoint, to worship, to glorify, to teach, to honor, to offer hope.
 - b. Two by two, never alone, with authority, fully certified, with Jesus, for Jesus, in Jesus' name.

2. As followers of Jesus Christ, feel the rush of The Wind and believe, we will be called to go farther than we think when it comes to our journey in faith and making God and our neighbors first. Ezekiel 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; Mark 6:5-7
 - A. Even when others do not respect us or accept us, we will be able to go farther than we think, with the grace of Christ.
 - B. Even when we think we can go no farther, with the rush of The Wind, we can surrender and trust, rather than fight to control or try to do it all on our own.

3. With the rush of The Wind, God in the power and grace of Jesus Christ, goes so much farther than we think! Ezekiel 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Mark 6:8, 12-13
 - A. God goes farther than we think as we realize God needs us, even though we are mere mortals.
 - B. God in Jesus goes farther than we think to encourage us and to lead us in apostleship, discipleship and faith.
 - C. God did not rest until he went as far he needed to, to save us!
When it comes to forgiveness, freedom, mission, blessing and salvation, like the rush of The Wind, God goes farther than we think!