

Luke 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Analysis

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority (δύναμιν καὶ ἐξουσίαν, dynamin kai exousian)—Jesus delegates both the ability to act (dynamis, inherent power) and the right to act (exousia, delegated authority). This dual commissioning marks a crucial transition: the Twelve move from observers to participants in Christ's messianic mission.

Over all devils (πάντα τὰ δαιμόνια)—the authority is comprehensive and complete, not limited to certain demons. **And to cure diseases** (θεραπεύειν νόσους)—the ministry includes both spiritual deliverance and physical healing, demonstrating the kingdom's holistic restoration of fallen humanity. This commissioning anticipates the Great Commission (Luke 24:46-49) and the Spirit's empowerment at Pentecost, showing that apostolic ministry flows from Christ's delegated authority, not human ability.

Historical Context

This commissioning occurs midway through Jesus's Galilean ministry (circa AD 29), after the Twelve had observed His teaching and miracles for months. Luke uniquely emphasizes both power and authority, highlighting that effective ministry requires divine enablement, not just official appointment. The temporary mission (Luke 9:1-6) prefigures their permanent commission after the resurrection.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the distinction between power (ability) and authority (right) shape your understanding of Christian ministry and spiritual warfare?
2. What does Jesus's delegation of authority to the Twelve teach about how God chooses to advance His kingdom through ordinary people empowered by the Spirit?

Interlinear Text

Συγκαλεσάμενος	δὲ	τοὺς	δώδεκα	μαθητὰς	αὐτοῖς
he called	Then		twelve	disciples	them
G4779	G1161	G3588	G1427	G3101	G846
ἔδωκεν	αὐτοῖς	δύναμιν	καὶ	ἐξουσίαν	ἐπὶ πάντα τὰ
gave	them	power	and	and authority	over all
G1325	G846	G1411	G2532	G1849	G1909 G3956 G3588
δαιμόνια	καὶ	νόσους	θεραπεύειν		
devils	and	diseases	to cure		
G1140	G2532	G3554	G2323		

Additional Cross-References

John 14:12 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Luke 10:19 (Parallel theme): Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Acts 4:30 (Parallel theme): By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Matthew 16:19 (Parallel theme): And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Acts 1:8 (Parallel theme): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 9:34 (Parallel theme): And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Acts 3:16 (Parallel theme): And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.