

Mark 3:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

Analysis

Jesus appointed the Twelve 'that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils.' The purpose was twofold: preaching (κηρύσσειν—heralding, proclaiming) and miraculous authentication. Preaching was primary; miracles were confirmatory signs. 'Apostle' (ἀπόστολος) means 'sent one'—commissioned representative with delegated authority. Jesus' giving disciples His authority demonstrates confidence in sovereign power working through weak instruments. Reformed theology emphasizes Christ's authority mediates through apostolic testimony preserved in Scripture.

Historical Context

The concept of authorized representatives was familiar—rabbis sent delegates (shaliach) with authority. Jesus transformed this into apostolic office—eyewitnesses commissioned to proclaim Christ and establish church. The Twelve symbolize restored Israel under Messiah. Their authority to heal and exorcise validated message, demonstrating kingdom power. After Pentecost, apostles performed miraculous signs authenticating gospel (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's delegation to weak disciples encourage you in ministry?
2. What relationship exists between preaching gospel and demonstrating kingdom power?
3. How does apostolic authority, preserved in Scripture, govern church today?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἔχειν ἔξουσίαν θεραπεύειν τὰς νόσους καὶ
And to have power to heal G3588 sicknesses And
G2532 G2192 G1849 G2323 G3554 G2532

ἐκβάλλειν τὰ δαιμόνια·
to cast out G3588 devils G1140
G1544

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