

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

Psalms 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	ἐξουσίαν	θεραπεύειν	τὰς	νόσους	καὶ
And	to have	power	to heal	G3588	sicknesses	And
G2532	G2192	G1849	G2323		G3554	G2532
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ἐκβάλλειν	τὰ	δαιμόνια·				
to cast out	G3588	devils				
G1544		G1140				

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