

4.1.A(23).Chief Shepherd Authorizes
Partners to Represent/ Proclaim Him.
Mark 6:7-14.

Read Mark 6:7-14..

7 And he called the twelve and began to **send them** out **two by two**, and gave them **authority** over the **unclean spirits**

¹⁰ And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, **stay** there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a **testimony**

against them.” ¹² So they went out and **proclaimed** that people should **repent**. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. ^{14a} **King Herod heard** of it, for Jesus' ^[c] **name had become known.** Mark 6:7, 10-14a

Background:

In your childhood as a disciple (stage 3), you grew stronger in the family and Kingdom of God.

Learning the secrets of the Kingdom of God, you and your family learned to plant the Word of God and to watch for the spiritual growth and harvest that multiplies the Kingdom as it spreads the name, freedom, and peace of Jesus Mashiach throughout any land.

Now, in this important Stage 4 of your development as a disciple of Jesus Mashiach, you begin the transitional phase as you enter your full maturity as a disciple. In the same way that human development sees our “teenage” years as the necessary bridge from childhood into adulthood, so your spiritual formation as a functioning *Son* in the Kingdom Family of God begins now.

Childhood should be a safe and formative time for your faith, as you learn to build up and help others to grow in their faith in the safety of a *household* of faith. In the same way that teens start to venture out of the house to explore, to work, and to begin to make an impact in the world, so, too, Jesus Mashiach now sends you from the *homebase* of the Family into the needy and straying world.

Children, having been well-taught by their parents in the home, go out as young adult-teens to represent their families. So, as you grow into a *young-adult disciple*, the Lord as the Over-Shepherd of the flock sends you out to gather his lost sheep to return them to the safety of his welcoming flock.

When childhood ends and young-adulthood begins, the time for “practicing and playing” ends as you are given *real responsibility* from the Lord to shepherd the needy back to the Lord. And, as teens learn the value of *partnering* and relying on one another in the world, so you will learn to partner to reach entire *households* for Jesus Mashiach.

You have already seen how you can help those who are “bound” and enslaved by Satan to have their “captive souls” freed by the Lord’s power.

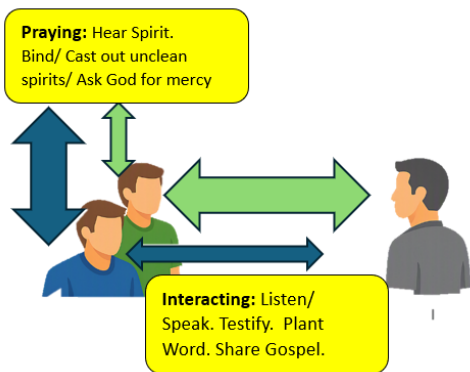
Now, as you partner together, you will learn to instruct those whose hearts are hardened by unbelief.

Remember, the Lord himself struggled with those hardened by **unbelief**. So, rather than sowing the Word from afar, you will learn as partners to engage, interact with, and discover the heart-hidden *blockages* of unbelief that you may instruct those so hardened.

Case study: Partners reaching Households.

Visiting China, I met and heard the testimony of a humble brother who helped shepherd a Chinese house-church network. After the Cultural Revolution, a great revival swept through China and the house churches multiplied with Kingdom fruitfulness. The brother told this story: “Our house church sent us to a certain province, because we knew the Kingdom had not yet reached it. Three of us as a

team were sent out with very little. After a few days, our money ran out, and we slept under bridges and were very hungry. Finally, we were welcomed to stay at a farm house. The farmer's daughter was a deaf mute. So, our team would take turns fasting and praying for the Lord to heal her. After several months, the Lord healed her, and word spread through the entire area! Many people turned to the Lord and we planted a great many house churches in that region!



Focus:

1. Partnering Relationship: Mashiach sends as Team. 6:7
2. Power to Represent Mashiach: over unclean). 6:8-11
3. Provision from God: Freed to Meet and Testify Freely. 6:12-13.

Consider:

Previously, the Lord called his disciples to come together, that they might learn to build one another up in the Family of God. Now, in this next fourth stage of the disciple's growth, the Lord calls his disciples that he might *send them* in pairs (6:7)

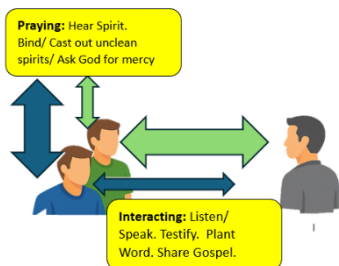
to represent him in the world, sending them out with his “authority” over the unclean spirits and “charged” them to go out by *faith* and go to households, finding homes to *receive them* to let them stay.

In this phase of development, the disciples will start to *take responsibility* to care for those to whom they are sent. The shift into spiritual young adulthood is the shift from a Self-focused on growth to a *shepherd* who takes responsibility to feed and care for the lost, the weak, and the needy.

So, as you see how the Lord cultivates his disciples to grow into Shepherds and shepherding partners, consider first why the two-by-two, partnering pairs are so important for Kingdom ministry.

1. Praying in Unity:

Partners share in the Lord's authority and presence by agreeing in prayer to "bind" and "release" (Mt.18:18-20).



2. Proclaiming as a Team: When sharing the Gospel and proclaiming Jesus, household- to-household, partners can take turns either talking and interacting with or praying for spiritual breakthroughs, casting out unclean spirits.

3. Planting new Households of Faith: When partners lead households to the Lord, a new household of faith is planted, which can gather other disciples as a spiritual house-church. In this way, Paul and Barnabas planted many households of faith as a gathering for disciples.

Case Study: Planting a household of faith.

Living in Chicago, I partnered with my friend K. to plant a home-fellowship group., which we designed to function as a homechurch. Here are what households of faith need:

Parental Shepherds: The Lord God appoints in every household of faith *parental shepherds* who will take responsibility to sacrificially care for his people K and I were the *main shepherds*.

Hosts: We found a host to offer up their home for the group. Although Aquila and Priscilla hosted and shepherded their church, we suggest a separate host who has the gift of hospitality.

Apprentice Shepherds: We looked for younger leaders that we could mentor to be sent off, eventually, to start a new group. Actually, we worked with 4 other apprentices so eventually multiplied two new groups from the original group.

Assistant Leaders: From among the group members, it is important to recognize gifts of the Spirit to be used for the common good: worship, prayer, serving, teaching, administration, all these gifts contributed to the health of the group.

During our meetings, we worshipped, prayed, shared testimonies of God's work in our lives, needs and requests for prayer, shared instruction from the Word, and planned and implemented outreach campaigns. Some groups had regular "hospitality" events to invite outsiders to eat with them.

In the end, our little homegroup became three households of faith.

1. Partnering Relationship: Mashiach sends as Team.6:7

When disciples reach the fourth stage of their development as spiritual *young adults*, the Lord

entrusts to them very significant Kingdom authority and responsibility. Perhaps that is why he sends them out as partners, that there may be accountability and support in the spreading of the Kingdom in the world. So, the Lord sends them out “two by two” (6:7). If the “household” of faith is the most durable and naturally agile structure for Kingdom multiplication, then “partnering teams” are the strongest and minimum arrangement to plant and oversee these “households of faith,” in the same way that every natural family unit is meant to have a *parental pair* to oversee the household and care for and raise the children. So, disciples were meant to partner with one another to do the work of the Kingdom.

Note that there are two paired arrangements, depending on the maturity and the mission of the pairs. In this case here, Jesus sends out

“partnering pairs” as ministry teams. Of the two disciples in a pair, one may become the “main” leader of the team, or they could simply collaborate like Paul and Barnabas as equal partners. Alternately, the pair may consist of an older “mentor” and a younger ‘apprentice” or disciple-in-training. These “mentoring pairs” could of course still partner in ministry together. For example, in an established “household of faith,” the main shepherds of the group may each meet with an “apprentice” separately. So, when K and I led our group, each of us mentored a younger disciple. When our primary group outgrew our original home, I took my apprentice and we started a new household of faith, while K and her apprentice stayed and oversaw the original household.

When Jesus Mashiach sent out the pairs into the world, he gave them “authority over the unclean spirits” (6:7).

2. Power to Represent Mashiach: over unclean).

6:8-11

Jesus also strategically sent them to minister to households which offered them hospitality. In this way, the conversion of a household would automatically secure a home for a home group.

Interestingly, Jesus Mashiach sends his partnering teams out with nothing but their faith—leaving behind bread, money, or sandals. Why? The pairs of disciples presented themselves to households as being impoverished, so that worthy households would have pity on them and invite them.

3. Provision from God: Freed to Meet and Testify Freely. 6:12-13.

Question:

Further Discovery:

