July 5,2015 ***FOLLOWING THE PLAN OF JESUS***, based on Mark 6:1-13

* Most difficult experiences of life are going into strange and unknown situations
* -moving to a new location, starting a different job, even coming to an unfamiliar church
* -hesitancy or anxiety
* -disciples challenged to go on mission
* Jesus provided them the tools
* -sent out 2 by 2. Needed support, safety, and ability to stick to message.
  + -authority over ‘unclean spirits’. Not sure what is meant, but evil in people tried to trick and weaken. God gave them what was needed to overcome these problems.
  + -nothing to divert them from message, only a staff(walking stick). No food, money – bare essentials. We need all kinds of things, but in Jesus’ day, villagers were hospitable, even anxious to help.
* We are ones sent today! Gospels written to encourage Church to continue mission.
* -excuses we offer. Not prepared, don’t know Scripture, afraid to invade another’s privacy. Think others should do it – pastor, committee, missionaries. Bible leaders had similar excuses – Moses, Amos, Paul – had neither skill, education, family background, nor money.
* Our commission based on our baptism where Spirit of God given. Beginning of ongoing relationship with God.
* -Church gives support, encouragement, hope
* -each of us can do our part through prayer, encouraging words, standing for justice, helping the needy
* -even though the Church declining in stature, we need to work harder and listen more carefully to God’s calling. Must live our conviction as we go out from worship. God will take away anxiety and hesitancy***. You are the plan!***