

This is the prayer that Jesus spoke to God the Father.

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”

Jesus says that He prays that they will be "sent" into the world--just in the same way that he was "sent". But this word "sent" in the Greek is this--apostello {ap-os-tel'-lo} send 110, send forth 15, send away 4, send out 2, (notice this Greek word is used 141 times in the new testament--the word "pastor" is used once!)

Someone who is sent, is an apostle. Jesus was saying that--"as I was sent by God the Father as an apostle--so I send these--in the same way--as apostles." Now of course, we know that Jesus was directly speaking to the apostles of His day--He was speaking to the people who had followed Him. It is important to note that in the Bible, "ministry" was NOT a title--but a function! When He was teaching His followers, they were called "disciples" (students)--when they did the same work He did, they were called "apostles".

(as we see in verse 1 of chapter 18)-- "When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples"

The conclusion that has always been made--and the one that the Bible bears out, is that He was speaking to those people--at that time and place, and of course that is true. Those people at that time certainly became apostles--and are our Biblical examples of apostles--being sent out by Jesus to do the work of God in the World--to bring people into the Kingdom of God--to carry the Gospel to the world around them--to get people saved, healed, delivered--fed and released--in Jesus' name. But Jesus was not only talking to those people--in those days--back then! As He Himself said.....

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;”

Jesus clearly says that the prayer He makes--part of which is the command that they be "sent"--that they be "apostles" was not just for the people He was talking to in that day--but also --

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;”

We believe in Jesus not by His direct words--but rather we believe in Jesus by the written words of the apostles in the Bible. The prayer that Jesus makes in this chapter of John is also speaking to us today--we are the ones who believe in Jesus through the words of the apostles. So the call to be apostles--to operate with apostleship as our example-- is certainly for us today also. ALL OF US!

“through whom we have received grace and apostleship.....” (Romans 1:5)
Jesus operated His ministry by a freely released network of apostleship---and so did the church in the Bible. What excuse do we have for doing anything else with our time here in the earth??

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