

Every Saint Sent Preparatives

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 9:1-6



Big Idea

To be a Christian is to be sent out on mission. Whether you cross oceans to reach the nations or you cross the street to reach your neighbors, you are Christ's missionary, a sent one of God!

We who have the Spirit of God would do well to notice why Jesus says the Spirit is given to us in the first place. In one sense, there are lots of reasons why the Spirit is given. But running underneath all of this is one fundamental concern. Why is the Spirit poured out upon the church? To equip her for the mission of God—to reach, and bless, and save the families of the earth, the nations. The Spirit is fundamentally a missionary Spirit—sent to us because He is sending us to them (cf. John 20:21-22; Acts 1:8).

(1) Called

All our attention has been on the crowds and the individuals Jesus has been ministering to—the leper, the paralytic, the man with a withered hand, the Centurion's servant, the widow's son, the prostitute, the demoniac, the woman with a flow of blood, Jairus' daughter. All of these stories have captured our attention, and rightfully so. But, while all of this is going on over here, we might have missed something perhaps even more significant going on over there: namely, discipleship. He's called these men to Himself so that they might follow behind Him, watch, learn, and slowly, become more and more like Him. This is perhaps one of the most awesome things a human being could ever conceive—that as we watch Jesus heal the sick, eat with tax collectors, cast out demons, embrace the unclean, rebuke the self-righteous, and ultimately lay down His life in love at the cross, we are not only seeing how utterly set apart, holy, distinct Jesus is from the world, we are also seeing what He is determined to make us by His Spirit. We are witnessing the very mission we too are being sent out on by Him.

(2) Given

The making of a missionary involves not only being called into close communion with Jesus so that you can learn to be like Him, it also requires that you be given something of His power. If you don't go out with His Spirit and His power, you will spend buckets of sweat but see none of the harvest. So here's really the question: Are we waiting on God, praying earnestly to the Lord of the harvest? In between our seeing of the need and our going, are we praying—for His power, His authority, His Spirit?

(3) Sent

The found find. The caught catch. The harvested harvest. The saved save. The sought after are sent out. That's the movement that God intends to initiate in the church! And, again, this sending out of God does not merely apply to a few in the church who we deem missionaries and send out. It applies to us all! Every saint sent.

Reflection Questions



- Before this sermon, how would you have answered the question: Why did God give you the Holy Spirit? There are many good answers from the Scriptures, but how does seeing the Spirit's connection to the mission of God change things for you?
- Reflect on your last week. Have you been living as a sent one, a missionary, of God? Looking at the week ahead, what might you do to live more out of this identity and calling?
- Where and to whom is Christ sending you? Can you answer that question? Have you ever prayed about this? Give yourself to prayer on this point. Ask Him for direction. Ask Him for His heart and His power. Ask Him what going to them looks like. And go!