

Every Saint Sent

Objectives (Part 1)

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

We need an approach to evangelism that can scale and flex and shift depending on the person or people we are talking to. Like Jesus and the early church, we too want to always preach the same gospel and yet never do it in quite the same way.

What does it mean to “proclaim the kingdom of God” (v. 2b) or, as it’s put in v. 6: to “preach . . . the gospel”? What does it mean to share The Story with others? If you and I are God’s missionaries, God’s sent ones, and if this is our prime objective . . . how do we do it?

Upon reading the Scriptures closely it occurred to me that though Jesus, Paul, Peter, and others are always preaching the same gospel, they never preach it in exactly the same way. Their presentation, it seems, is always tailor-made for the person or people they are trying to share the gospel with. They do not merely recite the same gospel outline again and again. Their presentation is deeply engaging and intriguingly flexible—always getting at the same truths, but getting there in so many different ways!

(1) Know The Story

It’s a bit ironic but, in order to really flex and contextualize in our sharing of The Story, we have to first know the whole thing by heart. It’s a lot like learning an instrument, a guitar or something. At first you learn notes and chords and scales. It’s all very technical. But once you really start to get it, what emerges is more freedom for artistic expression. Suddenly you can jam with your guys on a Friday night. Because you know the scales and things, you can highlight this or that note, whatever’s right for the song in the moment.

There are two presuppositions that must be settled in our hearts before we ever begin to evangelize: **(1) We’re All in God’s World**; and **(2) We’re All in God’s Image**.

There are many ways that people sum up the gospel, or The Story, but I have found it most helpful to break The Story down into four chapters: **(1) Creation**; **(2) Fall**; **(3) Redemption**; and **(4) Consummation** (see back).

(2) Know How The Story Touches Our Own Story

I think the key to ministering the gospel in a meaningful way to others is first learning to minister it in a meaningful way to ourselves. We need to Know How The Story Touches Our Own Story. And, mark this: I’m not talking about how the gospel touched your life at your conversion. I’m talking about how it touches your life today, right now, in the very things you are facing. When you start to make these relevant connections from the gospel to your own life, you will find that you’ll also start to be able to do the same for others, even unbelievers, in your neighborhood, in your workplace, in our city, in our world!

Reflection Questions



- Describe your experience with evangelism. In what ways has it felt awkward and artificial? Why do you think this was the case? How can our evangelism become more like Christ’s?
- Do you know The Story by heart? How would you tell it? Read the outline on the back. What verses would you use to support each chapter?
- Are you living in The Story? As you are going about your week, pause and take inventory of your heart and life. What are you facing? What are you desiring/fearing? How does the gospel connect to what you are doing right now? We need to grow skilled in making this connection in our own lives so that we can start to do the same in the lives of others.

The Story

Chapter 1: Creation

In an overflow of love, God created all things. And He made humanity in His image and put us over all that He had made. And He saw that it was very good.

Chapter 2: Fall

We had God, we had each other, and we had the world, but it wasn't enough for us. Being with God wasn't enough. We wanted to replace Him. Adam and Eve chose to rebel and we all have followed suit. Because of this God has put us and the world under a curse. We no longer have access to His presence; we no longer enjoy deep fellowship with each other, but instead our relationships are characterized by selfishness and strife; our work, our labor is hard, stressful, and vain; and, in the end, we die . . . eternally.

Chapter 3: Redemption

But in the midst of the curses, God, in undeserved grace, makes a promise. A Child will come who will overturn the curse and redeem us. The whole Bible is given over to tracing the line of this child, until He comes in Jesus Christ—God's own Son. Jesus lives the life we should've lived, and yet, on that cross, He dies the death we should've died. He takes the full weight of the wrath of God, He becomes a curse for us. And when He rises on the third day we know the curse has been overturned by grace, we know the grave has been overwhelmed by life. In Him, we can be forgiven, restored, and made new.

Chapter 4: Consummation

And through Him God will make all things new in the end—a new heavens and new earth. But He's postponing this last act to make time for people to come to Him. You see, His work on the cross isn't automatically applied to us. It must be received, like a free gift, by faith. We must own up to our rebellion, our mess, turn from our sin (it never delivered on its promises anyways), and trust in His work on our behalf. And, when once we do, we are united with Him, born again by His Spirit, our hearts of stone made soft and alive. And He starts to put our broken lives back together one piece at a time, until, at last, we see God again face to face in paradise.