

Every Saint Sent

Ready for Departure

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

There are three basic steps we can take towards a missionary lifestyle: (1) Presence—we actually get out and in the mix with unbelievers; (2) Opportunism—we are on the lookout for ways we can meaningfully minister the gospel in word and deed; and (3) Courage—we hear God's call and step out in faith, even at cost to ourselves.

(1) Presence

A critical part of the missionary lifestyle involves *Presence*—being with the people we are trying to reach; not waiting for them to come to us but going to them. What good is salt if it's left in the container? What good is light if it's kept under a basket? No! Get those things out into the decay and the darkness. That's what they're for. That's what the church is for. So how are we doing with this? Are we getting into the mess of everyday life with others? Are we present in our home, neighborhood, workplace, city?

(2) Opportunism

Merely being present in your home, in your neighborhood, in your workplace, in your city, doesn't mean you're actually there in the way that God intends for you to be there—as a missionary, a sent one, commissioned by almighty God to be His ambassador, a royal priest, salt and light. With this we step from *Presence* to *Opportunism*. We can start to understand what I'm after with this idea of *Opportunism* when we look at the life of Jesus. He wasn't just present with people, He was on the lookout for opportunities to meaningfully minister the gospel to them in word and deed.

(3) Courage

Those opportunities to which we get a sense God is calling us, it takes a lot of *Courage* to move on them, does it not? It's one thing to see the opportunity and it's another thing to actually go for it. That's where it starts to cost you personally, right? *What if we do this and it fails? What if we reach out and people reject? How much is this going to set us back financially? Do we really have time in our schedules?* It takes courage to move in word and deed for the gospel. You feel like you're going out on a limb here and it might all blow up in your face.

But that's when we remember: Jesus didn't just go out on a limb for us, He was hung on a tree. As He was present with us, as He saw opportunity, and as He sensed God's call and stepped out in courage to minister in word and deed, He knew it was going to claim His life.

Reflection Questions



- Regarding *Presence*: If Jesus was a friend of tax collectors and sinners, how many friends do have outside the church? How blurred are your lines? What ways can you pursue this more?
- Regarding *Opportunism*: Do you live your life with eyes open to the missional opportunities around you? Would you say you are typically on God's mission or your own? Why do you think? What opportunities are you aware of right now? What do you think God is calling you to do?
- Regarding *Courage*: For those opportunities that you think God is calling you to pursue, why do you often shrink back? What are you afraid of? How can you grow in courage and faith?