

That We Might Serve Him

Sermon Series: 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 1:67-80

→ "...that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days" (vv. 74-75).



Big Idea

Christ frees us from the power of Satan, sin, and death so that we might serve Him.

(1) That We Might Serve Him

Something that must be settled in our hearts before the Christian life can even begin: Does God exist for us, or do we exist for Him? The irony of course is that those who would enlist God to serve themselves find themselves utterly unsatisfied, while those who lower themselves to be servants of God find themselves filled to the fullness. Coming into the service of God is less like a slave taking on chains and more like a bird taking flight. It is not degrading it is dignifying. It is not dehumanizing, it is rehumanizing. It is our return to what we were created for.

Some of us long to serve God, but don't for another reason: we feel unworthy. God has given us wings by His grace and yet because of our own sense of unworthiness—guilt and shame—we feel it more appropriate for us to shuffle around on the ground in the dirt. Christ has set us free to serve and soar!

(2) Without Fear

We have fears and they do stop us from serving God. But underneath all of these, is still a fear of Satan—a fear that this world is still in his control, that God might not be there for me in the end. But to these fears, Paul would respond: "You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" (Rom 8:15)

(3) In Holiness and Righteousness Before Him

Joshua, the high priest of Israel, sinner. Luther, the great Reformer of the church, sinner. You and I, sinners. But "[we] have washed [our] robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" (Rev 7:14)! We are holy and righteous before Him, called into the freedom and joy of His service! Spread out your wings. You can fly!

(4) All Our Days

"No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship (*latreuo*) Him" (Rev 22:3).



Critical Action

Conquer the Devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony! Accept the verdict of the heavenly Judge, no matter how dirty you feel. And serve Him with everything you have in every sphere of your life!

Reflection Questions

- If the second and greater Exodus Christ has accomplished for us has made us all priests to our God in all of life, how are you offering yourself to Him as a living sacrifice? Where are you serving Him? Where are you serving yourself? For extra credit, read Heb 12:18-13:16.
- Christ has set you free to serve. He has given you wings by His grace, but are you still on the ground? How does Satan keep you down personally? What aspects of fear, guilt, and shame keep you from the freedom of serving God in all of life? What should you do?

