

The Many Facets of Jesus' Ministry

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 8:1-3



Big Idea

Jesus' ministry has many facets. We are always learning more about it. In this text we see that He has been sent to proclaim good news, that He always backs up His words with deeds, that He's come for all made in God's image, and that He allows others to minister to Him.

Facet #1: News

Jesus' ministry had one central focus: heralding, announcing, preaching, proclaiming, bringing "the good news of the kingdom of God" (v. 1). The gospel, before it is anything else, is first news. This is perhaps the single most important thing we can say about Christianity. Because this is what sets it apart from all other religions. All other religions are fundamentally a set of instructions—what you must do to be saved, get enlightened, break free from the cycle of reincarnation, etc. But Christianity holds out first, at the most fundamental level, not a set of instructions, but news—not what you must do to be saved but what Christ has done to save you.

Christianity is news before it is ever instruction. Jesus is Savior before He is ever Teacher. And you are loved and accepted in Him before you ever lift a finger. And that changes everything!

Facet #2: Service

Jesus does more than talk about the kingdom. He manifests it, He puts it on display, He walks it out. All of His words are authenticated by His works. Everywhere He goes with the news of the kingdom He brings the manifestation of the kingdom with it. And this is the God-ordained means for growing the church and advancing the kingdom. We share with you news and we offer our service, in Jesus' name!

Facet #3: Acceptance

Jesus' acceptance of these women into the circle of His disciples would've run a fingernail down the chalkboard of rabbinic opinion and tradition in His day. But Jesus isn't interested in reinforcing the stereotypes, superficialities, and corruptions that often fester within patriarchal societies. His mission is to redeem and renew a people after the image of the God who created them. And this means that His target audience includes all who have been created in that image in the first place: namely, everyone. All in God's image, therefore, all on God's heart!

Facet #4: Need

Jesus, in an act of humility and solidarity with us, allows Himself to need us, to be provided for by us. He casts Himself upon human hospitality as it were. As a minister He was not opposed to being ministered to. In fact, ironically, He seems to have seen it as an important part of His ministry.

Reflection Questions



- How does the gospel as *news* before *instruction* change the way you approach God and the Christian life? How does this help you with the things you will be facing this week?
- How did you respond to the events in Charlottesville? How does the gospel guide you forward? What can you do to partner with God in healing and mending our nation?
- How are you doing with your "ministry of need"? Are you letting people know you, pray for you, minister to you? Is this hard for you? Why or why not? How has letting yourself need others deepened your relationships with them? Conversely, has it ever caused problems?