

Broken, Given, and Set

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 9:7-17



Big Idea

As Christians, as God's missionaries, we get the privilege of distributing that which only Christ can produce. That is the essence of ministry. Jesus breaks and gives. Ours is to set what He's accomplished before others for their satisfaction and joy.

(1) A Perplexing Question (vv. 7-9)

One might think that, if it were the activity of the twelve that was causing such commotion, perhaps he would be asking about the names and identities of the twelve. They were the ones preaching, they were the ones healing, in all of those villages. Not Jesus. But, you see, (and here's the critical point) the twelve, it would seem, though they were "doing" the work, they refused to take the credit. They were jealous to help people make the connection between the healings, the casting out of demons, the miracles, the power, the love that they demonstrated and the One truly behind it all: namely, Jesus. They would not let you think this had anything to do with them. So, after all their labor, after all their ministry, only one name is left lingering in people's minds.

(2) A Welcome Interruption (vv. 10-11)

With the shadow of the cross moving now over our Savior, with death now showing its fangs, He does not bend inward with self-concern or self-pity, rather He continues entrusting Himself to His Father and bends outward with concern and compassion for others. This crowd is not an interruption of His plans or needs. He's happy to see them!

A Stubborn Amnesia (v. 12)

These disciples have watched Him raise the dead. In fact, v. 11 tells us that He's been working miracles right there in front of them. That's why the day is wearing away. Jesus has spent the great majority of it "cur[ing] those who [have] need of healing." And yet, here they are, certain that the only thing left to do with these people is send them away to get food and shelter. They don't even ask Jesus what He thinks. They don't even seem to think He can do much about the situation. It's a stubborn amnesia.

A Satisfying Savior (vv. 13-17)

The command to give the crowd food necessarily sends the disciples searching for resources. But they make the grave error we are all so prone to make. They look out at the need and immediately look in at themselves. But, in all this, they forgot the most important look of all. It is the one that Jesus reintroduces them to in v. 16: "[T]aking the five loaves and the two fish, he *looked up* to heaven . . ." "I know you see the great need in front of you. And I know you see the great shortage inside of you, but look up and you shall find the great supply, from our Father in heaven."



Reflection Questions

- Are you living to make Jesus famous? In what ways is this the case? In what ways is it not?
- Are you so busy caring for yourself that you feel you have no time to care for anyone else? Do you welcome interruptions, intrusions into what you've planned, into what you think you need? Why or why not? How does Jesus help with this?
- How do you see the stubborn amnesia at work in you? Do you have any memory aids in place to fight this?
- Do you feel insufficient for these things? How does the picture of ministry in this text help?