

The One Who Hears You Hears Me

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 10:4-16



Big Idea

Christ's arrival has initiated the last days and the appointed time has grown very short. The harvest season of gospel ministry is upon us, but the final judgment is coming. We have been sent into the field as His ambassadors bringing the message of His all-comprehending peace.

(1) Urgency (v. 4)

Throughout the Old and New Testaments the idea of harvest often carries with it the overtones of coming judgment. The same is true for our text here in Luke (cf. vv. 12-15). People need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ before it is too late. Now is the time to go and tell and harvest, because the window is closing. The arrival of Christ in history is also the beginning of the end. It is this sort of thing, I think, that stands behind the urgency we sense in v. 4. The simple sense of it is this: There is nothing more important than the mission. So He thrusts them out without time for packing or preparation. "Just go! And as you are going, don't stop!"

(2) Intensity (vv. 5-15)

Jesus sends them "two by two" not just so they could have a buddy or extra accountability and support. He sends them out in this way to imply that the testimony they are bringing to these cities is a matter of life and death for their hearers (cf. Deut 17:6; 19:15).

Observation #1: The Kingdom of God Has Come Near in Either Case

Observation #2: The Results Are Not Our Responsibility in Any Case

With Jesus comes a greater revelation of God's kingdom and glory. And with that greater revelation comes greater responsibility. And, therefore, if you reject this greater revelation, the judgment you face shall be greater as well. It will be more "intense".

(3) Agency (v. 16)

We are agents, or ambassadors, or representatives of God. Or, to put it another way: When people hear us, they are (or at least they ought to be) hearing Him. Wherever I go, whatever I say, whatever I do, I am putting Him on display, I am bringing the kingdom of God near. The world should read from the lines of my life what God is like—what he feels, what He thinks, what He says, what He does.



Reflection Questions

- Are you willing to put the good news before a good reputation? Do you love what people think of you more than you love the people themselves? How would your upcoming week be different if you really sensed the urgency of the coming judgment and the closing window of the harvest season?
- Have you ever been a part of a church or ministry that pushed for results in evangelism? How does this text release you from that pressure? What are you responsible for? How are you doing with this?
- When people hear you do they hear Him? When you draw near to a town, does the kingdom of God draw near with you? Are you an agent of Christ, representing Him in word and deed? In what ways have you lived this out recently? In what ways have you faltered? How might Jesus lead you into more of this in the coming week?