Title: The Christ Who Sends
Text: Luke 9:1-9
Date: November 1, 2026

Proverbs 4:13 tells us that we must *"keep hold of God's instructions and never let them go for they are our life."* And so, if you have your copy of God's Word with you this morning, I hope you do, please turn to Luke 9. We're going to be looking at verses 1-9 this morning. And if you don't have your own copy of the Bible, please see me afterwards. I'd love to give you a free copy. And in the meantime, you can turn to page 1029 in the pew Bible in front of you as well as follow along on our screens up here as well.

And today we're going to be back in our study of the Gospel of Luke as our author, the first century doctor and companion of the Apostle Paul, writes this carefully researched and thematically organized eyewitness account of the life of teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Here in Luke 9, we're coming to the end of the first half of Jesus' public ministry, the first half of his ministry that was conducted primarily in the region of northern Israel called Galilee. And Jesus' primary emphasis, if you've been following along in this first half of his ministry, is to simply reveal himself, to reveal by his works his unique identity to those who are around him. Well, coming soon in verse 51 of this chapter, this emphasis is going to shift and we're going to see Jesus turns towards Jerusalem and begins to focus on discipling by his words, his twelve apostles, and the faithful followers that have gathered around him.

Starting today, we're going to see that shift begin to take place from revealing to discipling. And so, while we're still in the first half of his public ministry and everything we're going to be looking at is still focused on revealing Jesus' identity, we're going to see in each of these passages coming up in Luke 9 that Jesus is revealed uniquely in terms of how he relates to and disciples his people. And so, these are going to be super encouraging accounts from Jesus' life for us to walk through over the next few weeks, I believe, because the glory of Jesus is going to be revealed to us. And we're going to see his glory revealed in that Jesus is the Christ who sends his people, who satisfies his people, who suffers for his people, who saves his people, who shines over his people, who strengthens his people, and then who even straightens out his people when they are going wrong. This is who Jesus is.

And if that is who Jesus is to us, then what type of disciples ought we to be for him? That's it. That is the central premise of Luke 9 and of the entire gospel of Luke when you really think about it. Jesus is the saving sovereign of all. Therefore, surrender your life and follow him. And that's what we're going to see this morning in Luke 9:1-9, where we see, Jesus is revealed to us as the Christ who sends, the Christ who sends his people. And this is a great passage, as I was thinking about it, to follow up our mission's conference that we had last week and Colby's message from Jonah the week before. God is engaged in a merciful mission, as we have learned, and central to this merciful mission of God is the idea of sending.

As the most famous verse in all the world says, *"for God so loved the world that he,"* what, *"gave his only begotten son."* Right. Because our triune God is engaged in a merciful mission, the Father sent the Son into this world, and the Son sent the Spirit into this world, and the Spirit is now sending the Church. And this has always been a part of God's redemptive plan to include us in it. And that's what we're going to see today from Luke 9:1-9, is we get to look upon from his word the Christ, uniquely the Christ who sends. And so, we've got three simple points from this morning's passage to help us step all the way through it together.

First, in verses 1-2, we're going to see the commission of Christ's messengers as Jesus shares not only his mission, but also his power to accomplish that mission. Then in verses 3-6, we're going to see the conduct of Christ's messengers as Jesus communicates the manner in which his apostles were to carry out that mission. And then finally in verses 7-9, we're going to see the consequence of Christ's messengers, that every person in that region from the smallest to the greatest became desirous to know more about Jesus because Jesus's followers actually followed him in that mission. And that is the consequence that our lives can have if we surrender ourself to Christ's saving sovereignty and to his saving merciful mission here on earth. So that's what we got ahead of us. We got the commission, the conduct, and the consequence of Christ's messengers as they follow the Christ who sends.

And so, with that in mind, if you're able, please stand with me out of reverence and readiness for the word of God as I get to read our passage in front of us today from Luke 9:1-9. Our author, the Dr. Luke, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes these words for us today,

Luke 9:1, *"And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.' And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere."* Verse 7, *"Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen… 'But who is this about whom I hear such things?' And he sought to see him."*

This is the word of God, which we swear and confirm to keep as this people.

Let us pray.

Father, we thank you so much for the passage that is set in front of us today. Father, I thank you that in your saving work on behalf of your people, you have not only opened blind eyes to see the glory of Jesus, but you have also given our previous purposeless lives purpose beneath your sovereign authority. Father, we thank you that this morning we have the greatest news in all the world to give that there is a Savior of infinite power who can accomplish the deepest healing of the human soul. So, Father, I pray that as we

have this good news that you would quicken us by your Spirit this morning to remember why we are still here on earth, and that we would be disciples this week of the Christ who sends.

Give us grace towards this end we ask in Jesus' name, amen.

You may be seated.

Now whenever you study this life of Jesus in the Gospels, it always becomes pretty obvious quickly that Jesus had one singular mission in his life before the cross, and that was to glorify God and to fill up his kingdom by proclaiming his word. If you remember back in chapter 4:43 as Jesus was staying in a desolate place praying the people of Capernaum went up to him, and they begged him to stay. And Jesus's response was, *"I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to other towns as well; for,"* listen to this, *"I was sent for this purpose."* Jesus came to make heaven full through the proclamation of the word of God. And that was his purpose, that was his singular mission, he was sent for that reason, he never ever deviated from it. And that is why when we came to Luke 8:1 if you remember what did we find Jesus still doing, we were told that *"he was going throughout all the cities and villages proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God."* Jesus's heart broke with compassion, he saw the lost doomed lives of those around him, and he opened his mouth to proclaim the word of God to them. And, and he was focused on that.

And as we come now to Luke 9, having only a year and a half to reach all of Galilee Jesus hasn't been able to make it into every city and village. Time is drawing short from an earthly perspective, he must soon set his face towards southern Israel and towards Jerusalem, where his great work is to be accomplished. And so, in the passage set before us today Jesus sends out his 12 disciples in one final blitz if you will of Galilee to aid him in proclaiming the good news. In other words, what he had been doing, he now graciously extends to others, he sends them out to do it as well. Proclaim the kingdom of God. And so, let's see that commissioning this morning in verses 1-9. The commission of Christ's messengers is first in verses 1-2, where we read, *"And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal."* I don't want you to miss the main point of these verses even though we're going to look at all the details.

First, yes, Jesus did call. *"He called the twelve together."* That'll preach. And second yes Jesus also equipped, he *"gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases."* That's awesome. But don't miss the main point. Why did Jesus call? And why did Jesus equip his disciples? It's so that they would be *"sent out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal."* You see, giving the apostles the power and authority over demons and diseases that wasn't for entertainment or for show. That was Jesus giving the apostles, the ability to accomplish the greatest and most ultimate end. And that is to proclaim the gospel.

You see demons are an obstruction to gospel ministry. They try to distract or deter others from it, just like the demoniac tried to do if you remember back in Luke 8. Demons are obstructions to gospel ministries and diseases are you could put this way opportunities for gospel ministries. And we saw that if you remember also in Luke 8 with the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. Jesus met her physical

needs, and then he was able to meet her spiritual needs. And so, Jesus gives his apostles here power and authority over demons and diseases. And when he does that what he's doing is he's giving them the ability to clear the way for and to confirm the proclamation of the gospel. And Jesus is doing it through miraculous power. He's doing it through miraculous power.

You see back then the revelation of God and the canon of scripture had not been completed yet. Jesus who is the final word and revelation from God he had literally just arrived. And therefore, the saving gospel of his person and work was not finished yet. It wasn't accomplished yet, it wasn't confirmed or proven yet. And so how would you have known back then, without a shadow of a doubt, whether a new message being preached to you truly came from God or not.

Well, first the message would have to agree with the truth that God had already given. This was taught ever since Deuteronomy 13:1-5. Contrary to what postmodernism teaches today, truth is universal, and it cannot contradict itself. Two plus two is four even if you put down five. It's still four. Therefore, if the teaching is true that someone is delivering to you, it will never contradict the already established revelation of scripture. So, you'd know back then if a message is from God because first it would agree with the truth of God and then second it would be accompanied by the power of God. And this is how God always confirmed new revelation when you study scripture, whether it be the prophets in the Old Testament or Christ in the Apostles in the New Testament, they performed miracles. The power of God always accompanied and confirmed the word of God when it was newly revealed to man.

As Hebrews 2:4 says, *"God also bore witness to the message by signs and wonders and various miracles."* And so, what Jesus is doing here is simply equipping his twelve apostles with the special ability not only to proclaim a new revelation to man, the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, but also to confirm the authority and veracity of this newly revealed gospel message. Jesus gave his apostles, you could put it this way, the might to do it, power, and he gave them the right to do it, authority. And by the way, just to be clear, Jesus gave this power and authority only to his twelve apostles, to those who would succeed him, to his twelve handpicked messengers. As 2 Corinthians 12:12 says, *"the marks of a true apostle,"* in other words, the distinguishing characteristics that set apostles apart from everyone else, *"were performed among you with utmost patience,"* Paul writes.

In other words, there are certain things that only apostles can do. And what were those unique apostolic specific marks? Signs, wonders, and mighty works. So, the supernatural ability to do signs and wonders and mighty works is not given to every believer. With the temporary and limited exception of the seventy-two witnesses that we're going to see in Luke 10, this ability to do miracles was given uniquely to Jesus's twelve apostles as proof of their genuineness and of the nature of the gospel that they had been newly entrusted with. And so, Jesus gives his disciples his very own message and his very own power to confirm that message. And having then called and equipped them, he then, as it says here, sends them out.

Now, Jesus had already called these twelve men, if you remember, apostles' way back in chapter 6:13. Apostles means sent ones. But up till now, these sent ones hadn't been sent yet. Instead, they had been following Jesus for a year and a half and learning from him. Here, Jesus finally sends out his sent ones to

do the work of an apostle. And you could see this as an internship, a test run, if you will. These twelve men had studied Jesus's ministry and message carefully for about a year and a half. Now it was time to duplicate it. He had promised in chapter 5:10, that they would become *"fishers of men."* And now it was time to push out to sea for the first trial run. And so, Jesus sends them out to do exactly what he did. It says here *"to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal."*

Now we need to ask ourselves, what would they have been proclaiming in proclaiming the kingdom of God? Well, they would be proclaiming that God is king over a kingdom, right. That he is securing people for his kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ and that all men everywhere must repent of their sins and trust in him. As Mark 6:12 says, *"they went out and they proclaimed that people should repent."* That they should turn from their sins to faith to Christ. And so don't miss this. Jesus also sent them out to heal. Again, not as entertainment or as a show for the masses, but as a means to the end of proclaiming the kingdom of God. And we would do well to remember this, that Jesus commissioned his apostles to care for both the spiritual and the physical dimensions of men.

It's hard to tell someone about Jesus when that person is cold or hungry or hung over or high. If you care about people, you care for their souls and their bodies. Sometimes, in fact, the only way that you can meet someone's spiritual need is through first meeting their physical need. And this is why faithful Christians in the past have always started rescue missions and orphanages and hospitals. This is why they've drilled wells in the desert and adopted children and run for public office. Faithful Christians have done all of these things, not as an end in and of itself, but always as a means to an end to proclaiming the kingdom of God to man. And so, this is the commission of Christ's messengers, is to proclaim the gospel, to care for the souls of men. And showing concern for their physical needs is always a good place to start. And so, it is for us today as well.

Before I move on, though none of us are apostles, all of us are sent ones living beneath this great commission to proclaim the kingdom of God to those who are lost. And friends, not only has Christ called you to this mission, I want you to know this morning he has equipped you for it. So, I want you to think about it this morning first. Who in your life do you know has not surrendered to the saving sovereignty of Jesus Christ? Who do you know? Your mission is them. You know them for a reason, so that you would share the gospel with them. Is it someone in your own household? Is it someone in your family? Is it someone in your classroom, on your street, sitting at the lunch table next to you? They're your mission. So, God has given you a mission and he has uniquely equipped you for it.

So, I want you to think about this this morning. How has God uniquely equipped you to accomplish his mission for the people that are around you? I want to just give you some suggestions and you can think about this later, okay. Perhaps God has equipped you with a child, not so that you can feel like you have a wonderful family, but so that you could strike up a conversation with an unbelieving parent who's next to you. Perhaps God has equipped you with that lunch break, not to doom scroll, but to talk to the unsaved coworker next to you about Jesus. Maybe God has equipped you with that money, not to buy that new flat screen television, but to help that unsaved person who needs help. Or maybe God has equipped you with that athletic talent, not to be the MVP and receive accolades and applause, but to reach out to that

unsaved teammate next to you who's struggling at sports. Maybe God has equipped you with that trade skill, not to build the most amazing house for yourself, but to help out that unsaved neighbor with their car or their lawn or their electricity or their house.

He didn't give you all of these things in life, friends, to fill your own home, your own stomach, your own bank account, or your own trophy case. He gave you all of those things as a means to the mission, to share the gospel. And it is through caring for their physical needs, perhaps, of those around you that you might get an opportunity to care for their spiritual needs as well. So, Christ has sent you and he has equipped you for this mission. So, let's stay focused on target and use everything we've been given to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ this week with what God has given us. This is the commission of Christ's messengers.

Next, let's see the conduct, the conduct of Christ's messengers. And that is in verses 3-6. In other words, Christ has not only sent us out on mission, but he has also given us instructions in how to carry out that mission. How to conduct it. And if we're to be effective in our gospel witness, then our lives must be marked by three things that Jesus touches on. It must be marked by faith, by contentment, and by steadfastness. First, for effective gospel relationships with others that underline the gospel and don't undermine it, our lives must be marked by first faith. Look at verse 3, Jesus said to them, *"And he said to them, 'Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics.'"* Now to say that Jesus tells them to travel light here is an understatement. I mean, what's less than nothing? He tells all of them, go right now. Don't head back. Don't grab an extra bag or a set of clothes or staff or food or money. Just go right now with whatever you're carrying already. Go now with whatever you've got on. That's crazy.

And before you all freak out, I just want you to know that this was not the expected normal for every day of their life. Later on, in Luke as Jesus is sending them out on another journey, he's going to say at that moment in Luke 22, *"now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one."* That's more typical, isn't it? Before you head out, make sure you've got food, you've got money, you've got self-defense. That is a normal approach to life that Jesus expects us to normally lead in wisely, right. To establish some basic self-provisions. But here at the very beginning of their apostolic ministry, Jesus wants them to learn a very important lesson. You know that lesson of absolute dependency that you learned out on the sea back in chapter 8? Well, that lesson just wasn't for that moment, that is for your entire life.

I want you to remember for the rest of your life that when you have nothing, you still have all you need in me. When you have nothing, you have all you need in me. And so, take nothing for this first journey. Take no staff for support, take no bag for money collections, take no bread for lunch today, take no money for lodging, take no clothes for tomorrow. Just go in absolute dependency, trusting that I will provide everything you need along the way. That is how important it was that their message of faith be accompanied by a life of faith. Jesus stripped them of absolutely everything so that their life would match their message.

And friends, that is exactly how important a life of faith is for us as well. Of how important it is to just live in absolute dependency upon Jesus Christ alone. That is why Jesus says over in Matthew 6:31-33, he says, *"Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?'…. or 'What shall we wear?'…. Rather, seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be,"* what, *"added to you."* One of the greatest dangers in American Christianity is debilitating concerns. We open up the word of God, we know what God is calling us to do, but I've just got all these other things I'm concerned about. And so, Jesus brings these apostles to the point where they have absolutely everything stripped away so that they would know the most important thing at any given moment is to just do what Jesus says.

Friends, I want you to know that's the mission that Jesus is still engaged in in our own lives. He wants us to remember that he is all we need. Jesus reminded his disciples of this very moment, in fact, and a lesson later on in Luke 22:35, when he said to them, *"When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?"* And their answer was, *"Nothing."* That was the lesson Jesus wanted them to learn and to live in light of. That even when they lose everything, they never lack anything. But Jesus, if I'm to do that, what's to happen with my job, what's to happen with my relationships, what's to happen with my family, what's to happen with all these things? Okay, you have these concerns, but what does Jesus say? This is the faith that Jesus wants us to have as well.

And I think that's why Jesus sometimes thrust us into trials and circumstances that are way beyond our ability just like he did here with the apostles. It is so that we can learn during those moments when Jesus is all that we have, that Jesus is all we need. And that's the lesson for all of life. So that even when we do have money or even have a full pantry or a sword, we never depend on any of those things. We never rely on them. We never grow anxious about them because we have learned that Jesus is all we need. And we don't learn that during times of prosperity and richness. We learn that during times of poverty and need. As Hebrews 13:5-6 says, *"be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'"* As Christ sends us out, we should be marked by faith. Marked by faith.

Second, we should be marked by contentment if we're to underline the gospel and not undermine it. He says in verse 4, *"And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart."* In other words, when someone offers you a place to stay, don't seek better quarters, right. It's only a twin bed. I got to move on, right. Well, I think that there's better decor in the village down the street than here, no. But they don't have running water. That's fine. Stay there until you leave. Be content with what you have. Don't seek greater comfort, seek greater contentment.

That should be put on a coffee mug. No one who has ever faithfully sought after Jesus without compromise ever lived to tell a tale of comfort. Can I just say that one last time for us as Americans. No one who has ever faithfully sought after Jesus without compromise ever lived to tell a life of comfort. But they have lived to tell a life of contentment. And as those who are sent out by Jesus, that's what we need to be marked by as well.

Whether we have many possessions or few, we need to be marked by faith and contentment. Because if we're not marked by things, have you ever considered what that reflects back upon Jesus? The message we go around preaching is that the greatest need of your life is your relationship with God. And Jesus is the one who can make you complete and give you abundant life and satisfaction. But boy, if I could just get a better vehicle, a better car, a better job, a better whatever, do you understand that you are contradicting the gospel in those moments? Friends, if we were to be effective gospel witnesses, we need to be marked by faith and contentment. I have all I need because I have Jesus.

We need to kill the sin of complaining. We're really good at doing that towards our kids, aren't we. Well, this is God now speaking to us. Our life should be marked by contentment. If Christ is all you need, then in 1 Timothy 6:8 says, *"if we have food and clothing, then with these we will be content."* Demonstrate your message by your life. Be content.

And then finally, as Christ sends us out, we should be marked by steadfastness. Steadfastness, that's in verse 5 where it says this, *"And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them."* See, in that culture, it was a common rabbinical practice after traveling through pagan land to shake off the Gentile dust from your shoes before entering Israel. It was kind of a physical way of symbolizing that the Gentiles you had just come from did not belong to the people of God. And Jesus is saying here, well, when a Jew rejects the good news that you bring, when you leave that town, make sure that you shake off their dust as well, because they don't belong to the people of God either. I've given you a message that divides all of humanity, Jesus is saying, not based on ethnicity, but based on the heart. It doesn't matter whether you're a Jew or a Greek, if you reject the gospel, you're not a part of the people of God.

Jesus says it even more bluntly in Matthew 10:15, when he says this, *"Truly I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town."* That's heavy. Sodom and Gomorrah will get off easier in the day of judgment than one of those Jewish towns that rejected the ministry of Christ and of his apostles, because it was Christ's message that they gave and Christ's power that they showed. And so, Jesus says it doesn't matter if they're Jewish, it doesn't matter their ethnicity, their family background, or their public confession if a town rejects the gospel of the kingdom, it is pagan and treated as such. That's a good reminder in our day, is it not? Just like back then, many people in our world today and in our country claim to belong to God. They claim to claim the name of Jesus, to be a Christian, and yet they deny the teaching of Christ and even of Christ's apostles in God's word.

Let me be clear. To be devoutly Christian, whatever you think that means, and yet reject the clear teaching of Christ and of Christ's apostles, is not to be Christian at all. It is to be thoroughly pagan and under the judgment of God. And so, Jesus says when they reject the gospel message and your apostolic teaching, don't crumble into disappointment, don't take it personally, be steadfast. Brush off that experience and keep on going. When the rejection is fixed and there is nothing more to be said, brush the rejection off and move on to the next opportunity of ministry that God has given you. You've given the message, you've proclaimed the good news, you've done all that you're required to do. God will do the rest; you just

keep on being steadfast and proclaiming the word of God. That's to be the conduct of Christ's messengers; is to be marked by faith, by contentment, and by steadfastness as they proclaim the kingdom of God.

And look at verse 6. It says, *"And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere."* In other words, the apostles heard Christ's word and they obeyed. They went and they preached good news. They went and ministered to people's needs. They went to the poor, the orphan, the needy, the prisoners, the widows in their affliction. They went to every town and village and gave them the good news of the kingdom of God. And just as important as the message administered was the way that they administered it. They administered it with faith, with contentment, and with steadfastness.

So, before we move on to the next point, quick thing I want you to think about; is how about you? Does your life match the message that you're professing? How's your faith, your dependency upon God being demonstrated before the eyes of your children and your friends and your family? How is your contentment being demonstrated in front of your children, your friends, your family? How's your endurance being demonstrated? Your endurance in following Christ and proclaiming the gospel in front of your family and your friends and your children? Is your life underlining the same message that you share of faith and contentment and steadfastness in Christ? Because as those who are sent out by Jesus, this must be our conduct.

So, we've seen the commission and the conduct of Christ's messengers. Finally, let's see the consequence of it. The consequence. So, Jesus' 12 apostles, they go out everywhere with Jesus' own message, manner, and miracles. And what's the result? What's the consequence? Look at verse 7. It says, *"Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening."* See, the result of Jesus' apostles carrying out his mission in his manner was that everyone in that area was starting to hear the gospel, even up to King Herod himself. Now this was not the Herod, by the way, of Luke 1, I need to be clear, who killed all the young children around Bethlehem. This was the son of that man, Herod Antipas, the one who would later crucify Christ. He first finds out about Jesus through the evangelistic blitz of the apostles. Evidently, these 12 apostles got people's attention.

Just think about it. When you meet a radical preacher with only the shirt on his back, with no concern for money or food or what tomorrow might bring, who is passionately preaching a message from God to everyone he can, who is confirming his message with the revelation of God's power, and who is completely sold out to his master named Jesus, you take notice. And this is what was happening all over Galilee. These dependent, faith-filled, focused, immovable preachers had done more than hear the word of God. They were doing it, and they had sprung up all over the place, declaring throughout all of Galilee the good news of the saving lordship of Jesus Christ, because they followed the Christ who sent.

Well, this catches even the attention of Herod and the end of verse 7 says this, *"and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen."* And Herod said, well, *"John I beheaded,"* right, that one

I can eliminate. *"But who is this about whom I hear such things? And he sought to see him."* Did you hear that question that Herod asks? *"Who is this about whom I hear such things?"* Because of the radical commitment and conduct of Christ's followers, everyone was wondering from the least to the greatest in that entire region, *"who is this about whom I hear such things?"*

Listen, brothers and sisters in Christ, that is the consequence that you are looking for in your life. That is what you want the result of your life to be. It's not to have everybody like you. Herod did not like Jesus, but he had to know more about him. *"Who is this one about whom I hear such things?"* This is our mission. That's the consequence we want in our life. What is the point of us living if those around us don't start asking the question, *"who is this about whom I hear such things?"* That as a result of your commitment to Jesus and your conduct on a day-to-day basis, your spouse, your children, your relatives, your co-workers, and your classmates all began asking themselves the question, who is this Jesus that I hear all these things about? May that be the result of our obedience to the Christ who sends; that there's something more about Jesus that I don't understand yet, because I don't understand how you're living right now. This is the consequence of people who follow the Christ who sends. Who is this?

In closing, though we have not been made apostles, we have been sent by Christ to go into all the world and to proclaim the gospel. We have been sent to call sinners to repent and trust in Christ. And so, followers of Jesus Christ, let me finish with these three applications this morning. First, I want to encourage you this week, stay on mission. It's going to be a lot of fun conversations you get to have this week with election day coming up. Isn't that exciting? What's your objective in every single one of those conversations? It's not ultimately that they would submit a ballot in a certain way. Your objective is that they would submit their lives in faith to Jesus Christ. That's your focus. Stay on mission and share the gospel everywhere and every chance you're given.

Maybe God is sending you through a trial. You're going to see a couple of doctors and nurses this week. Guess what, that's your opportunity and that's your mission. And God has equipped you with such unique talents, abilities, resources, and opportunities to minister to people that only you can reach. And so, this week use the resources God has given you to begin ministering to people's greatest needs. Stay on mission this week, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Second, guard your conduct. Might be another test that we face this week as well. Our lives must preach the same message as our mouths. So, consider this week and how I respond will I reflect a life of faith, contentment, and steadfastness in Christ? Because just as important as the message that you minister is going to be the way that you administer it. By the Spirit of God within us, let us live this week marked by radical faith, commitment, and steadfastness. For he himself has said, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* Stay on mission, guard your conduct.

And then third, pray for consequence. Pray that God would use your words and you're living this week to draw others to Jesus Christ because that is the reason why we have been sent. Stay on mission, guard your conduct, pray for consequence. That those around us might ask this question; who is this Jesus about whom I hear such things?

And this is the word of God from Luke 9:1-9 which I now commit to your further study and your faithful obedience until Jesus, who is our hope, returns.

To that end, let's pray.

Father, I thank you for this passage that we've been able to study this morning. How it reminds us of the Christ who was sent and the Christ who sends. Father, we thank you for Jesus, how he came to be a Savior for sinners. And because that was his great mission, he strove to meet as many people as he could. Father, I thank you that he proclaimed the kingdom of God. And he offered up his own life on the cross as a payment for sinners. Father, I pray that there is someone here this morning who has not responded in faith to Jesus Christ that they would do that today. That they would recognize that Jesus came to earth for a reason. And it was not just to be a good example. It was to be a sacrifice for sin. I pray, Father, that this morning they would repent and believe in Christ.

Father, I pray for the rest of us. We thank you that Jesus Christ is not only the one who was sent, but the one who sends. Father, thank you for reminding us this morning of why we are still here to bear witness to the truth. Help us this week, Father, not to retreat, but to be steadfast. Father, help us not to complain, but to be content. And Father, help us to not disbelieve your saving purposes in our lives, but to have faith. Father, I pray that you would help us to guard our conduct and be faithful in proclaiming the gospel for the good of those around us.

We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

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