

Sun., April 24

Memory Verse: "Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.'" Luke 10:5

Reading of Scripture: Not done during this series. All scriptures will be read during the message.

Message: Luke 4 Rejected 1: "Sent Out" -Gina, Tracy & Vicky

Text: Luke 10:9 "Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.'"

Scripture: Luke 10:1-24

Blurb: After Easter we begin a new series, "Rejected," as we see in Luke 10-12 that Jesus' popularity is fading and He is starting to be cancelled by powerful people. His message becomes more difficult to receive as He is pointing out sin, calling people to put away selfishness and to embrace self sacrifice. We are trying out a new experiment: each Sunday during the message we are having a panel of three folks from the church give their insights and inspirations on the reading that week. Come and hear them share what the story of Jesus in Luke means for living as a faithful disciple today.

Bulletin listing of the reading for next Sunday: Luke 10:25-42

GATHERING SONG: *Let Your Kingdom Come* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David

Christ is risen! [He is risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He is risen indeed!]

Christ is risen! [He is risen indeed!]

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

"Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'May peace be on this house.'" Luke 10:5

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

I Love to Hear You Speak to Me

All I Have Is Christ

Death Was Arrested

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

SERVE MOMENT:

GENERATIONAL BRIDGE -Pastor Andrew

MESSAGE: Luke 4 Rejected (Luke 10-12) 1: "Sent Out"

PP#1: Rejected 1: "Sent Out"

"Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'God's kingdom has come upon you.'" -Luke 10:9

“Rejected: Sent Out.” Luke 10:9 “Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘God’s kingdom has come upon you.’”

Today we are starting our after Easter message series. Yes, we’re still back in Luke, where we left off at the end of chapter 9, but we’re going to do something very different for a few weeks. Rather than having me walk you through the half chapter each Sunday, we’re going to try an experiment, something we’ve never done before, and each week ask a panel from our church to come up and give some reactions, thoughts and insights on the passages we are reading together.

PP#2: *Image of a famous panel of (three, if possible) people in discussion...perhaps The View?*

You see, we’re reading through Luke together so that we can follow Jesus better. We’ve chosen to become His disciples, but just like the first disciples, we struggle with what we see Jesus doing and teaching. Some parts we get. Some we get, but are challenging to do—and keep doing! Some we don’t understand. Well, since the very first disciples, Jesus’ followers have been wrestling with how to live out our discipleship.

So, for the next few weeks, I’m going to assemble a panel of three folks from our church to come up front and share a bit about how they engage what we are reading in Luke together. We want to hear how real people—Jesus followers just like us—handle what Jesus does and says.

PP#3: Tracy Bonsell, Vicky Keintz, Gina Lindholm

So, for our first Sunday here, I’m going to ask our panel members to come on up front, take your seat on your stool, and get ready to share!

[Tracy, Vicky and Gina come up front and sit on stools.]

Let’s give them a warm welcome, and show our support!

Thank you, ladies, for being here today and for agreeing to share a bit of how you engage the first half of Luke chapter 10. It is so helpful for us to hear your insights.

First of all, please introduce yourselves, share just a bit of what you do, and share with us your favorite Easter food.

Tracy: Shares

Vicky: Shares

Gina: Shares

PP#4: Luke 10:1-24

1 After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place He was about to go. 2 He said to them, “The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. 3 Go! Be warned, though, that I’m sending you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don’t even greet anyone along the way.”

Thank you so much! May the Holy Spirit help you share today!

Church, please take your Bibles and turn to Luke chapter 10. Our message series now is

called “Rejected,” because now in the third year of Jesus’ earthly ministry, He faces increasing opposition, especially from the Jewish leaders. Jesus has now left Galilee in the north, preached His way down through Samaria, and is now planning to travel around Judea, preaching and teaching in the areas surrounding Jerusalem.

Jesus again utilizes a style of ministry like He developed up in Galilee: He sends out disciples in pairs to go ahead to where He plans to go, to make ready: to teach, preach and heal in His name. This time He sends out 72 of His disciples. By the way, this story, interestingly, is only told in Luke.

Let’s read, starting in Luke 10:1. “1 After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place He was about to go. 2 He said to them, “The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest. 3 Go! Be warned, though, that I’m sending you out as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry no wallet, no bag, and no sandals. Don’t even greet anyone along the way.”

Okay, so Jesus names the urgency of the work, gives them instructions, and tells them to learn to depend on the provision the Holy Spirit will provide as they go. And not greeting others along the way meant to stay on task and don’t get waylaid into all kinds of conversations and coffee groups that could distract their work.

So, panel, we want to hear from you. What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you? Tracy, we’ll have you go first.

Tracy: I did not remember that Jesus sent out 72 in pairs of 2. When I pray for others salvation I pray knowing that it is through the Holy Spirit that people believe and are redeemed, but I don’t want to skip over the need for workers to prepare the way. It is like the Lord to send us out in togetherness, as the "going out in twos" reflects the Lord's insight for our need to have camaraderie, accountability and safety. Love it! Insight gained: pray for workers to "go out" together for a harvest that is plentiful!

The need is urgent, even more so today! Thank you. Vicky, your insights?

Vicky: Jesus sent them out in pairs. Seems like Jesus could have gone first, but over and over we see that Jesus sends His disciples AHEAD of Him. This obviously shows how important Jesus thought this "pre-work" was. If we are to put ourselves in the same shoes as the disciples and their work, then we need to realize that our jobs may not have all the glory but we may be put in the position to plant seed or do some of the "pre-work" and someone else will follow to reap the harvest.

Yes! Thank you. Gina, how about you?

Gina: "Like lambs among wolves"...we will meet with opposition as we strive to bring non-believers to Christ. This opposition can even be hostile and hurtful to us as Christians. But God will give us the strength to persevere as we push forward to making disciples. Not only will God give us the strength, words and knowledge but He will also reveal to us what He wants us to learn from each of these encounters. We all need to remember that each of us has our faith in God to help us through any situation.

Amen! Thank you.

PP#5: Luke 10:1-24

“5 Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘May peace be on this house.’ 6 If anyone there shares God’s peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. 7 Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don’t move from house to house.

Let’s keep going in Luke 10. Jesus gives more instructions that may be helpful for us in how we do His ministry in our contexts, today. Verse 5, “Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘May peace be on this house.’ 6 If anyone there shares God’s peace, then your peace will rest on that person. If not, your blessing will return to you. 7 Remain in this house, eating and drinking whatever they set before you, for workers deserve their pay. Don’t move from house to house.”

PP#6: Luke 10:1-24

8 Whenever you enter a city and its people welcome you, eat what they set before you. 9 Heal the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘God’s kingdom has come upon you.’ 10 Whenever you enter a city and the people don’t welcome you, go out into the streets and say, 11 ‘As a complaint against you, we brush off the dust of your city that has collected on our feet. But know this: God’s kingdom has come to you.’ 12 I assure you that Sodom will be better off on Judgment Day than that city.”

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Ouch! Ungodly Sodom was rightfully punished by God, but where Jesus was now sending His disciples, they were even getting a pre-warning!

So, panel, what do you do with this passage? What does the Holy Spirit have for us here? Vicky, I’ll have you go first.

Vicky: I was curious why there were so many specific details. Jesus must have known the disciples needed details: don't impose yourself, don't offend, don't be picky (as *The Message* version says: trying to find "the best cook in the town"), but rather, settle in and focus on your work. If the disciples appeared to not appreciate people's hospitality, then those people might not accept Jesus when he appeared. This made me think a little of the “Jesus fish” on people's cars. If I claim to represent Jesus, I need to try and reflect Jesus through my actions. I would never want people to reject Jesus based on what they see me do or don't do.

Yes, as followers of Jesus, we are being watched! Tracy, how about your insights?

Tracy: The more I read this section, the more radical it seems. From the peace resting on the host vs. returning to the disciple and the "go out and heal the sick" parts speak to insights and abilities gained by the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Spirit lives in us today and is also willing to give insight when we seek to share Christ. Sometimes we are welcomed and allowed to disciple and even heal, but other times we are not welcomed. Insight: This discernment is so important as we are the workers and the Holy Spirit is the Harvester.

And that's key to remember, the Holy Spirit brings the harvest!

PP#7: Luke 10:1-24

“13 How terrible it will be for you, Chorazin. How terrible it will be for you, Bethsaida. If the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives long ago. They would have sat around in funeral clothes and ashes. 14 But Tyre and Sidon will be better off at the judgment than you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be honored by being raised up to heaven? No, you will be cast down to the place of the dead. 16 Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

Well, Jesus keeps going, and He speaks harsh judgement against the places that reject Him, His message, and God's Kingdom He's bringing. He names three towns back up in Galilee where He had been and taught, but the people there only received Him superficially. He compares them to two Gentile towns where Jesus had not been, saying that they had a better excuse because those who had heard Him now know knew better.

Lets keep reading. Verse 13, “How terrible it will be for you, Chorazin [kor-RAY-zin]. How terrible it will be for you, Bethsaida [two town in Galilee where Jesus had been]. If the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon [two Gentile towns Jesus never traveled to], they would have changed their hearts and lives long ago. They would have sat around in funeral clothes and ashes. 14 But Tyre and Sidon will be better off at the judgment than you. 15 And you, Capernaum [Jesus' home base in Galilee], will you be honored by being raised up to heaven? No, you will be cast down to the place of the dead. 16 Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. Whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

Wow, harsh words, right? But when people reject our witness for Jesus, don't take it personally. Jesus says that they are actually rejected God! What do you do with that? Right back to you, Tracy!

Tracy: Many—if not most—people hate to be rejected. I have been rejected for my belief in Jesus and for standing on the Bible as His divine Word. I do not want to come to judgement and be found to have a had a hard heart towards the things of God. Insight: The rejection has been made more bearable knowing that it is more that my Jesus that is turned away than me and at the end of the day, I choose Jesus.

We start with ourselves and staying committed to Jesus. Excellent. How about you, Gina, what do you do with this?

Gina: We are given opportunities in our earthly life to learn, teach, guide others in our faith walk. We can't pass-up these moments and let them pass us by. We may not get a second chance.

Well said! Thank you.

PP#8: Luke 10:1-24

17 The seventy-two returned joyously, saying, “Lord, even the demons submit themselves to us in your name.” 18 Jesus replied, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 Look,

I have given you authority to crush snakes and scorpions underfoot. I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you. 20 Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the spirits submit to you. Rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven."

Well, off the 72 went. And it seems to have gone well for them, because Luke says that when they came back, they were rejoicing. We read again starting with verse 17, "The seventy-two returned joyously, saying, 'Lord, even the demons submit themselves to us in your name.' 18 Jesus replied, 'I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 Look, I have given you authority to crush snakes and scorpions underfoot. I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy. Nothing will harm you. 20 Nevertheless, don't rejoice because the spirits submit to you. Rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven.'"

Jesus has total authority over all powers—always has, ever since the beginning. The snakes and scorpions represent the evil powers which cannot harm the disciples of Jesus.

There's some good news here, right Gina?

Gina: Jesus gave these 72 amazing powers...one being all powers to overcome the enemy. This makes me ask what powers does Jesus give us? The first one that came to my mind is our power over Satan. I experienced a time a few years back when Sunday after Sunday I would come into church and immediately begin feeling angry. All kinds of negative thoughts came into my mind such as "why doesn't so and so ever talk to me?" and "why don't things ever go my way at church?" and so on. After many Sundays of these spirit draining thoughts, it came to me that this was the work of Satan trying to pull me away from a place I loved to be. I prayed for these negative thoughts and feelings to leave my mind. It worked! Now, I feel I have the ability to recognize the pull of Satan and I say "Ha! Nice try!"

[Vicky jumps right in...]

Vicky: Yes! And then, verse 20, "don't rejoice because the spirits submit to you," is also a warning against pride that also applies to us, too. God gives us gifts. But God doesn't want us to say, "look all I did." It says instead, "Rejoice instead that your names are written in heaven." Eternity needs to be our priority focus, not our successes here on earth. It is easy to give God credit among my Christian friends, but I work in a very secular setting, and I have been thinking about how I can give God better credit among the worldly. I think it is hard, but not impossible.

Yes, we have the Holy Spirit given into us to help us, making possible what may be hard.

PP#9: Luke 10:1-24

21 At that very moment, Jesus overflowed with joy from the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness. 22 My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal Him." 23 Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Happy are the eyes that see what you see. 24 I assure you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn't."

And right here Luke shows us a neat insight into Jesus. Remember, Luke takes care to mark the *biological* realities others gloss over. He describes Jesus—who had been so obviously frustrated with the disciples’ lack of faith earlier—now so happy. He lite up, delight spreading across His face, spiritual pride and joy gushing out.

Verse 21, “At that very moment, Jesus overflowed with joy from the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you’ve hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and shown them to babies. Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness. 22 My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal Him.’ 23 Turning to the disciples, He said privately, ‘Happy are the eyes that see what you see. 24 I assure you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn’t.’”

Vicky, it took you a minute to understand what Jesus meant about the wise and babies. Help us get on board.

Vicky: I didn't understand why Jesus would hide the good news from the wise and intelligent. I think those are positive qualities. But when I read it in different versions, I came to realize that Jesus was referring to the spiritually prideful know-it-alls. Jesus was revealing Himself to the babies—meaning everybody, even newcomers—but the know-it-alls have such a hard time with Him. I can't help but wonder if Jesus controls the good news being hidden or if it end up hidden because they can't see. A know-it-all is usually not readily able to listen if they have made up their mind.

Thank you! Tracy, what is a takeaway here for you?

Tracy: I can think of other places in scripture that highlights how God loves to reveal things to the "simple" or "children" or "the least of these". God is good. He is not enticed by self reliance or impressive resumes. Insight: I hope to grow in my love for the things the Father loves.

Yes, we’re all with you! Grow us, Jesus, in love for what the Father loves!

Gina, one more time: What does discipleship look like here?

Gina: I always wonder what it would have been like to be a disciple during the earthly time of Jesus...to learn first hand! Wow! But then I think...we are educated people who have thousands of years of teachings (from the Bible, our pastors, books, etc...) to learn from. With all of this knowledge and privilege comes the responsibility to follow Christ's pathway in all its hills and valleys...the pathway that leads us to the full Glory of God!

PP#10: *Image showing disciples firmly committed to follow Jesus.*

Wow, thank you panel for such awesome insights! You have given us so many applications for our own discipleship. Hearing what the Holy Spirit has been saying to you has helped us hear the Holy Spirit better, too. Thank you, also, for being willing to go first and forge the way!

Jesus warns that His followers will also know what it’s like to be rejected. Even so, we are far more blessed to see the amazing things God is doing right now among us. As Jesus said, so many previous generations longed to see God’s salvation take place. We as Easter people live in that joy!

Blessings, and amen!

[Panel returns to their seats.]

CLOSING SONG: *He Lives* -Sanctify

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Please be seated.

Wednesday meal

Read ahead: Luke 10:25-41

SPR Announcement: Steve Betker

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“Whenever you enter a house, first say, ‘May peace be on this house.’” Luke 10:5

BENEDICTION -Pastor David

POSTLUDE -Sanctify