

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Text: Luke 10:16-24

Preacher: Joshua Mack

Title: Reality bigger than Expectation

Discussion Questions

1. We have been entrusted with the most important message in the history of the world to deliver. God has stepped into human history to reverse the curse and provide salvation for sinners through Jesus. Can anyone remember some of the reasons from the previous Sunday's message why we can be so confident about this message?

2. As a believer when you realize the responsibility God has given us as a church, it motivates you to act, to minister. And yet, as we go out there to serve Jesus, it's not always easy. Has there ever been a time when you were excited about ministry, but then became discouraged when it didn't go as you expected? What happened?

3. The disciples definitely had expectations when it came to Jesus and their ministry. What particular expectations did the disciples have? (If you need help see the way they are thinking in Acts 1:6 or even look at what Zechariah is hoping will happen in Luke 1:67-71.)

4. How does Jesus turn their immediate expectations on their head in Luke 9:22,24,46-48,52-54,58-62,10:3, 10:13-14?

5. Given what Jesus is saying about the near future and the reaction of Israel, the question we might be asking is, what is there for them to hope in? Why is getting your hopes for future ministry or having your joy and excitement in the right place as you go out to minister such an important issue? Why would that question matter? What could go wrong if your confidence or security or excitement is in the wrong place as you go out to serve Jesus?

6. What three things does Jesus tell the disciples in these verses that should encourage them and us as we go out to minister in His name?

7. It's so obvious, but being able to speak for God is a big privilege. And yet we take it for granted. In a couple sentences give your best motivational as to why you should be excited about this. How might it impact you if you remembered as you were accurately explain the Scripture you were speaking for God?

8. The disciples were excited about some of their visible successes, but what surprising thing does Jesus tell them in verse 20? What do you think he means? Why do you think it's easier for us to get excited about certain visible accomplishments than the fact that we have eternal life? Would you say the fact that your name is written in the book of life is something that gives you joy at a core level? If not, why not?

9. So, Israel has basically just rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Or at least they are in the process of doing so. And yet, what is Jesus doing in verse 21? Why? What doctrine gives Jesus joy and why does that doctrine give him such joy?

10. What does Jesus call the disciples in verse 21? How do you think seeing yourself like that might increase your joy in being a Christian and serving Jesus? One reason we start to take the gospel for granted is because we begin thinking of ourselves as smarter or more important than we really are. What does Jesus say about the disciples in verse 23 and why?

11. As we look to the future and to serving Jesus, things might go really easily or and it's pretty likely, that things might be difficult, at least in some ways. Probably reality will be different than our expectations. How can this message help us keep going? What do we need to do to continue to enjoy the same things Jesus is enjoying in this passage?