

Title: Sent Out: Living in the Power of God's Indwelling Presence

Sermon Summary: Drawing from Matthew 10 and Luke 10, this sermon challenges believers to move beyond a passive, comfort-centered faith into an active partnership with God. The pastor emphasizes that Jesus did not call his followers to a life of ease but to a mission -- one that involves real risk, real opposition, and real dependence on God's indwelling Spirit. The central theological argument is that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not distant figures to be consulted in crisis moments but are actively dwelling within every true believer. This indwelling presence is the very power that equips Christians to witness, to endure hardship, and to point others toward salvation. The sermon calls the congregation to stop living as though God is an occasional resource and to begin living as willing partners in his redemptive mission -- being shrewd yet innocent, bold yet humble, and always pointing others to the Christ who lives within them.

Key Points:

- Jesus sent his disciples out with real authority but also with honest warnings about persecution, rejection, and hardship, demonstrating that following Christ is not a promise of comfort but a call to mission
- The command to be "shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves" means being observant and wise without resorting to manipulation or deception when sharing faith
- Effective witnessing is not about memorized formulas or theological arguments but about authentically sharing personal experience with Christ and meeting people where they are
- The disciples' joyful return in Luke 10 illustrates that obedient participation in God's mission produces genuine spiritual fruit and deep personal joy
- Jesus' teaching in John 14 reveals a profound mutual indwelling -- the Father is in the Son, the Son is in the believer, and the believer is in God -- making the Christian life a continuous partnership rather than a periodic religious exercise
- Many believers live weakly because they fail to grasp that God is already dwelling within them and is not waiting to be invited in only during moments

of crisis

- The greatest miracle a Christian can participate in is helping turn someone from a hell-bound path to a heaven-bound one, simply by sharing the truth of Christ and demonstrating his presence through their life

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 10:1-38, in which Jesus commissions the twelve disciples, grants them authority, and prepares them for persecution and opposition
- Luke 10:17-21, in which the seventy-two return with joy after their mission and Jesus redirects their rejoicing toward the fact that their names are written in heaven
- John 14:1-20, in which Jesus teaches about the mutual indwelling of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit within the believer and promises the coming of the Holy Spirit as counselor

Stories:

- The Restaurant of Mistaken Orders, a real establishment in which all waitstaff have dementia, was shared as an illustration of how God uses people's weaknesses and limitations as opportunities for meaningful contribution rather than disqualification
- The pastor recounted his own reluctance at age eighteen to enter ministry, and how a man named Max challenged him by asking what he had personally done to make a difference rather than simply criticizing the church
- The pastor described using his Ford Bronco at off-road events as a natural door-opener for authentic relationships that eventually led to conversations about faith, illustrating how ordinary interests can become vehicles for witness
- The feeding of the five thousand was referenced to show how Jesus demonstrated power through humility and prayer rather than spectacle or self-promotion
- Peter's call in Luke 5, where a miraculous catch of fish caused Peter to fall on his knees in conviction, was used to illustrate how Jesus desires not merely to be near his followers but to dwell within them