



2026 Focus: Rooted, Ready, Resilient Jeremiah 17:7-8

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The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service

Luke 6:48, Galatians 6:9

“He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.” **Luke 6:48 NKJV**

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” **Galatians 6:9 NKJV**

Rooted, Ready, and Resilient

A believer who is **Rooted in Christ, Ready through worship, and Resilient through Intentional Faith Development** will naturally embrace **Risk-Taking Mission and Service** as a way of life.

Robert Schnase emphasizes that risk-taking, mission, and service are not only congregational practices but also personal discipleship practices. Churches become fruitful when individual believers embrace Christ’s mission in daily life. **A congregation becomes rooted, ready, and resilient because its members choose to live that way personally.** This lesson focuses on **individual discipleship**, how each believer can practice risk-taking mission and service in practical ways. **One measurable outcome of this lesson is that every individual participates regularly in at least one ministry.**

I. Fundamental to the Mission of Christ- page 109, 1st Paragraph

Jesus came to **seek, save, serve, and restore. To follow Christ means adopting His mission as our own.** **Luke 19:9-10, Matthew 20:27-28, John 20:21-22.** Christ did not live a self-centered life. He paid attention to people’s pain and moved toward them with compassion. Believers are called to do the same in everyday life.

Individual Tangible Actions

- Intentionally help one person this week without expecting recognition.
- Initiate a conversation with someone who may feel isolated or overlooked.
- Offer practical support to a neighbor, coworker, or church member in need.
- If not actively in ministry, join one.

Vision: A Vibrant Community Living by Faith

Mission: Empowering People to Transform Themselves and the Community

Individual Tangible Results

- Greater awareness of God using you as His servant.
- Personal growth in compassion.
- New opportunities to witness through acts of kindness.

II. The Calling to Serve- Page 110, 1st Paragraph

Every believer is called to serve, not just leaders. [Mark 10:45](#), [Galatians 5:13-14 NLT](#), [1 Peter 4:10 NLT](#). Service is evidence of spiritual maturity. The believer who serves is living out Christ's example.

Individual Tangible Actions

- Volunteer for one ministry opportunity you have never tried.
- Use one personal skill (teaching, cooking, listening, organizing) to help someone.
- Spend one hour each week intentionally serving outside your household.

Individual Tangible Results

- Discovery of spiritual gifts.
- Increased sense of purpose.
- Greater confidence in serving God beyond church attendance.

III. Rooted and Grounded in Scripture- [Luke 4:18-19](#), Page 111, 1st Paragraph

Service must grow out of a biblical foundation. [Micah 6:8](#), [James 1:22](#), [Matthew 5:16](#), [Matthew 25:35-37](#). Scripture teaches believers not only to hear the Word but to practice it. Serving others is one way to live Scripture out daily.

Individual Tangible Actions

- Expect to serve someone each day.
- Look for different ways to serve.
- Share with another person how serving has impacted you.

Individual Tangible Results

- A deeper connection between Bible study and real life.
- Greater spiritual sensitivity.
- More consistent obedience to God's Word.

IV. The Stretch of Christian Discipleship- Page 113, 2nd -3rd Paragraph

Discipleship requires moving beyond comfort. [Matthew 14:28-29](#), [Philippians 3:13-14](#). Peter had to leave the boat to experience the miracle. Faith stretches when believers step into unfamiliar acts of obedience.

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Individual Tangible Actions

- Speak encouragement to someone you normally avoid.
- Visit or call someone who is sick, grieving, or a shut-in.
- Participate in one outreach event even if it feels uncomfortable.

Individual Tangible Results

- Increased spiritual courage.
- Stronger faith in God's presence.
- Personal growth through obedience.

V. The Risk with Following Christ- Page 115, 1st Paragraph

Following Jesus often requires sacrifice. [Luke 9:23](#), [2 Corinthians 5:14–15](#). Faithful service may cost time, comfort, money, or convenience. Yet discipleship means trusting God with what we release.

Individual Tangible Actions

- Give sacrificially to someone in need.
- Rearrange personal plans to help another person.
- Share your testimony with someone who needs encouragement.

Individual Tangible Results

- Stronger trust in God's provision.
- Greater freedom from self-centered living.
- Personal testimony of God working through sacrifice.

VI. The Attentiveness of People Around Us

Mission begins by noticing people. [Matthew 9:36](#), [Philippians 2:4](#), [Luke 10:33–34](#). Jesus saw people deeply. Risk-taking service begins when believers attend to the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of those around them.

Individual Tangible Actions

- Learn the name of one person you usually pass by without speaking.
- Ask someone sincerely, "How can I pray for you?"
- Pay attention to one visible need in your neighborhood and respond.

Individual Tangible Results

- Increased compassion.
- More meaningful relationships.
- Opportunities for ministry in ordinary spaces.

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