

Reflection Questions: Luke 9:1-9

For the message, "Moving Out Of Our Comfort Zones" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on February 02, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 9:1-9

1 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. **3** And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. **4** And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. **5** And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." **6** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

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, **8** by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. **9** Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

A summary of the message: Like these disciples, following Jesus will involve moving out of our comfort zones and participating in the mission of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- At the end of chapter 9, Jesus sets his face to march towards Jerusalem. But before he does that, he wants to give his disciples some hands on ministry experience. Put yourself in their sandals; Jesus authorizes you to do and say some of the very things he's been doing and saying—all of which are designed to put on display the kingdom of God, but he's not going to be by their side as they do it. What would have been going through your mind? What emotions might you be experiencing?
- We could summarize this passage like this: "To be a follower of Jesus involves moving out of our comfort zones and participating in the mission of Jesus." What do you like or maybe even dislike about this summary?
- In another place, Jesus told folks to "seek first the kingdom of God," that is, to make it a priority. What is the connection between seeking first the kingdom of God and moving out of our comfort zones to participate in the mission of Jesus?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What might change about our community of faith if we really believed that as disciples of Jesus, we exist for his kingdom and not for our own comfort? That is, we really are invited and commissioned to participate in the mission of Jesus?
- How can we encourage one another to live "in such a way that provokes questions for which the gospel is the answer" (HT: Lesslie Newbigin)? How do you need help with this?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- In verses 4-5, Jesus tells his disciples that they will encounter both acceptance and rejection of their message about Good News of the kingdom of God. The same is true today. We can expect that some folks will accept the message of Jesus, and some won't. How does this truth affect you? Intimidate you? Inspire you?