

GRADUATION MOMENTS

Scripture used: [Luke 10:1-20](#) (NIV)

OVERVIEW

In this special Gathering, we celebrated the many graduates from our church community. We looked at how graduation is not just an academic milestone, but that there are “graduation moments for all of us that God will lead us into time and again in our lives - moments where we go from what is familiar into a new season with new possibilities, responsibilities, and challenges. Graduation moments can be positive, such as finishing an academic course of study, starting a new job, or a new step of commitment in a relationship, or embracing retirement. Or, they can reflect painful and broken parts of life, when a relationship ends or after we have lost a loved one, and we enter into a new season with grief and trying to adjust to an excruciating new reality. This message is a commencement address for all of us as we begin the first day of the rest of our lives.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Our iconic Scripture has Jesus sending out the 72 emissaries and teaching them that the “harvest is plentiful but the workers are few” and they will be “lambs among wolves.” These 72 followers are thrust into a graduation moment where they are forced to leave what is familiar (listening to Jesus teach and watching Him do miracles) to a new season where they are now directly carrying out the ministry of Jesus. This sendoff is like a graduation. It’s a new season, with new responsibilities and challenges.
- 2) This passage teaches us that no matter what we’re graduating from and to, we must remember that we are SENT. God has an intention for our lives that corresponds to His plan and purpose. We are not making things up as we go along or just hoping to build a significant life. We have an assignment. Our freedom may be constrained, and it may be hard to embrace being sent by God. But God is not a harsh taskmaster or a distant CEO; God does not throw tasks at us, ready to punish us if we fail. God has already given us the greatest gift of all in His son Jesus, and He extends His unconditional love to each one of us. He is at work for justice, rescue, healing on this earth, and when He sends us, we are sent as trusted family members, honored ambassadors. Jesus knows the cross is in His future and that persecution awaits the early church; suffering does not mean the project failed, and we don’t need to have everything together in our lives to be sent. God works redemption and salvation in the broken parts of our lives. God’s love will catch us - that’s what it means that “nothing will harm us” (v. 19). Question to pose ourselves: what does it mean for me that I am sent?
- 3) Each season requires a new commitment to Jesus. We may ask of God, where are you in this new season? We need to figure out what it means for us to walk alongside Him in a new way. Just like the disciples were stretched and uncomfortable when they were sent out as “lambs among wolves” (v. 3), when we are in an uncomfortable new season, we need to recommit to God so we can learn and grow what God intends when we are stretched. God’s work in our lives is not to make us comfortable but holy. We must proactively choose a new community and relationships, a new discipline, and mentoring.
- 4) We must know how to win the right race. We all want to win, which often means we want to be better than others. That can be a trap – in God’s kingdom, success is not comparing ourselves with others and being better, it is knowing that we are blessed and being a blessing to others (see verse 20, where Jesus reminds His followers to rejoice that their names are written in heaven). We are sent to help others realize that their names too can be written in heaven - and sometimes that means we will give up things we love for things we love even more:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2021/06/01/graduation-dress-shoes-student/>.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Do you think of yourself as someone that is sent by God for the purposes of God? How does “being sent” make you feel? What parts seem positive? What parts seem inconvenient?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider [Luke 10:3-11](#). How were the disciples stretched in the assignment that God had given them? What did they learn from their “graduation moment” that they wouldn’t have learned staying with Jesus? Have you experienced a similar season in your life? Is there a way you need to commit anew to Jesus in this season of your life?
- 3) **DO** - Reflect on the question, “Am I winning the right race?” Make a new commitment to Jesus in this season of your life! Join us next Sunday to keep walking with God in this season!