

Sent as Jesus was Sent

(John 20:19-21)

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Ever since Jesus Christ came to this earth, there have been many who have speculated as to WHY He came. Some believed that He had come to defeat the Roman Empire. Some believe He came as a religious teacher. Others believe that Jesus came to simply be an example of how we all should live. However, each of these theories denies what Jesus Christ said Himself.

You see, Jesus told us, in the Bible, why He came to this earth or why He was sent here. As a matter of fact, there are 10 different times in the Gospels where Jesus says the phrases “I came to”, or “I am come that”, or “for this cause am I come”. The Son of God has made it plain and clear why the Father sent Him— why He came to live amongst His creation.

Here in the text I’ve just read to you, Jesus makes a statement— “*As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you*”. It seems like a simple enough statement, yet it contains some amazing truths. Within that statement we see that God the Father and God the Son had a purpose, a plan, and a method in Christ coming to this world.

If we can understand why God sent His Son and in what manner He sent His Son, then I believe it will shed some light on how Christ has sent you and me. So, this evening, I want to preach to you on the subject of “Sent as Jesus was Sent”.

The Bible has much to say regarding Christ’s first coming and even more to say regarding His second coming. For the sake of time, we won’t be able to look at everything that is said. But I want to take a little while tonight and look at some truths regarding Christ’s first coming with the hope that they will instruct us and motivate us to serve Him with our lives.

1. He was sent to a place

In John 1, the Bible says, “*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not*”. Imagine that! Jesus left the glories of Heaven to come down to live among His creation. As filthy and ungodly as this world is, Jesus came here to this world. The Bible says, “*...being in the form of God, [He] thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men*” (Phil.2:6-7).

But, not only was Christ sent to a place, He was more importantly sent to a people! That verse in John 1 said, “*...he came unto his own*”. That statement is proven all throughout the gospels. Jesus loved people. He came to this earth for the sake of individual people! He loved the publicans and sinners. The thieves and the harlots. The drunkards and the lepers. Jesus loved the very lowest of men!

And that same Jesus told His followers, “*As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you*”. Think about what that means! That means that we have a place and a people that the Lord has sent us to minister to! Just as Jesus was sent to this world, perhaps you have been sent to your neighborhood. Perhaps you have been sent to your place of business. Perhaps you have been sent to your family!

You say, “That’s the missionaries job! That’s the evangelists job!” No, Christian, that is your job! I believe that each and every Christian has been sent somewhere; some just go further than others. You ought to find your place where God has sent you! You ought to go to the people God has sent you to.

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2. He was sent with a purpose

God the Son did not just come here to visit, but He came for several reasons that are given in Scripture.

The first and foremost reason why He came was to save the souls of men! In Luke 19:10, Jesus said, *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”*. There’s a song that goes that something like “He was born to die”. That might be simplifying things a bit, but it is still true. Jesus Christ came to this world as a little baby in a manger for the primary purpose of saving men from sin, death, and hell!

That wasn’t the only reason He came, though. Jesus also came to minister to others. He said, one time, *“...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister...”* (Matt.20:28). What a thought! That the Lord came to earth deserving of all that man could give Him.

And, yet, He did not seek anything for himself, but instead to minister to others!

He also came to give folks the truth. He said to Pilate, *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth”* (John 18:37).

He said, *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”* (Mk.2:17). So, He preached repentance of sin as well.

In a nutshell, Jesus Christ said He came to this world to *“do the will of him that sent me”* (John 6:38).

Now, if He said *“As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you”* then don’t you suppose we ought to be doing the same things?... I believe is Jesus came first and foremost to save men, then we ought to be seeking the lost and preaching the gospel to them. That is the only thing that will save men’s souls! It is by the foolishness of preaching that God saves those that believe!

If Christ came to minister to others, then how much more ought you and I to minister to others. The servant is not greater than his Lord. If Jesus came to bear witness to the truth, then we ought to be beacons of truth— shining it wherever we go! If He preached repentance, so should we and we ought to do a good deal of repenting ourselves!

If Jesus Christ was sent to do the will of God, then that should be our aim every day— to do the will of our Father in Heaven. The Bible says, *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”* (Col.3:17). We are sent with a purpose!

3. He was sent with pleasure

If we are not careful we will get the mistaken impression that Jesus was forced to come to earth and die for the sins of the world. But the truth is that, to the same extent that God SENT His Son, His Son also desired to COME to the world! Jesus Himself said, *“I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father”*.

Notice, He said He was commanded by the Father, but He chose to lay it down Himself! It was a joy for the Son to do the will of the Father! And so it should be for us as well.

We have been commanded by the Lord. We have been sent forth even as our Savior was sent forth. Yet, we do not have to obey by force or constraint! We can and should serve Him with pleasure.