

## THE FRONT LINE LIFE // Luke 9:1-6

*From the series, The Gospel of Luke*

The apostles have been called and converted. In this passage, Jesus now commissions them. They are moving out of the lab and into the field to be on the front line of God's mission, doing ministry in the trenches. The apostles are models for all followers of Christ in their front-line lives.

Four Characteristics of a Front Line Life:

### 1. God has empowered them by his Holy Spirit (vs. 1-2)

When we set out to do ministry, we must understand that our power comes from the Holy Spirit--it is a derived authority. All believers are *indwelt* by the Holy Spirit at salvation; but we are also commanded to be *filled* with the Holy Spirit--living so that he is leading. (Ephesians 5:18)

Two avenues that lead to empowerment of the Spirit:

- a. A practice of prioritizing prayer--God wants us to ask.
- b. A diligent pursuit of holiness--God uses a clean vessel.

### 2. God has liberated them from the cares of this world. (v. 3)

We are to trust in the provision of God--he will give us everything we need. When you are free from stuff, you are more mobile--stuff weighs you down and holds you back. God will liberate believers from the cares of the world, the distractions of life, and preoccupations with self.

### 3. God has burdened them to mix their message with their ministry. (v. 4)

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we must often serve first (ministry) and bring the message (the gospel) once we've gained a hearing. We must get to know people because we are in the people business. When we look at the long-term, we are going to need a holy "stick-to-it-iveness."

### 4. God has convinced them to be dangerous for the gospel.

The book of Acts shows that these were men who were going to flip the world upside down. We may feel nervous about going out, but we must remember that we are not going alone--we have been empowered and liberated. Although the ministry starts here, it does not stay here.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are we prioritizing prayer and pursuing holiness? How can we be more intentional about following these avenues to empowerment in the Holy Spirit?
2. What cares, distractions, or preoccupations are most burdening us? Pray that God will liberate us to trust more completely in his provision.
3. Are we involved in ministries that serve others? How can we most effectively mix our ministry and our message (the gospel)?