

Series: Marks of a Healthy Church
Sermon #13: 'World Missions' (Luke 9:23-27)

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He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."

—Jim Elliot (1927-1956)

As a local church, we have the privilege to be part of God's mission to the nations. What grace it is that God uses our small involvement in the work of missions so that the gospel can go forth and Jesus gets all the glory in gathering His precious bride from every tribe and language and people and nation!

1. *The high cost of following Jesus includes our commitment to world missions (9:23)*

Something has to go when Jesus saves us and gives us a new life in Him... and that something is me, myself, and I!

What makes the gospel of salvation so life-transforming is the fact that Jesus had to carry his cross unto death to forever rescue us from our self-serving, me-first ambitions and dreams. What makes us think our calling to follow Jesus today will be anything less demanding?

We're not passive in missions; missions is not just a budget line we vote on every February. Rather, to support faithful, gospel-preaching missionaries around the world is part of our commitment to die to self, carry our cross and get behind Jesus with 100% devotion.

2. *The gospel paradox of missions (9:24)*

There is coming a day when the "life of your dreams" will be stripped away for good.

Temporary self-denial on this day for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison tomorrow, long-term, for all eternity... you won't find a better deal anywhere else! This is what Jesus is promising to those who carry their cross and follow him today!

We should have no hesitation leaving behind things that don't last to see the nations be glad and rejoice because the name of Christ is magnified among them!

3. *The infinitely precious value of every human soul (9:25)*

Jesus exposes the eternal bankruptcy of living selfishly for yourself and for this world. In the big picture, everything else is worthless compared to your soul!

If people don't have Jesus it doesn't matter what else they have; if people are not boasting in the cross of Jesus it doesn't matter what else they're boasting in today. Healthy churches love those who are lost in their sins... and we love them supremely by showing them how much more beautiful, majestic and soul-satisfying the Lord Jesus Christ is compared to gaining everything in the whole world.

4. *The dire warning of wasting our lives (9:26)*

When we become consumed by a me-focused, self-oriented, individualistic way of doing life, we will be ashamed of Jesus; Jesus will 'return the favor' when we stand before him at his return.

Let's be bold for Christ in the work of seeing his name reach the farthest corners of this world! A commitment to missions here at Calvary Baptist demonstrates a commitment to Christ; we want our missionaries to be well supported because we are not ashamed of our Savior.

There is a great day coming when Jesus will not be ashamed of those who are bold and shameless for him today! May this be true for each of us!

Conclusion:

The more we treasure Jesus as a local church, the more we will be serious about world missions... and as a result, more cultures will get to hear about the wonders Jesus accomplished at the cross—to ransom sinners and gather a people for God who will go on worshiping Jesus, following Jesus, and ultimately reigning with Jesus in eternal joy!

Resources for Additional Study:

Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global (Andy Johnson)

Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions (John Piper)

Dispatches from the Front: Stories of Gospel Advance in the World's Difficult Places (Tim Keese)

Come and See: A History and Theology of Mission (Glen Scrivener & Justin Schell)