

**Sermon Series: Being Jesus Christ to the World**  
**Sermon Title: "Serving God with All Your Strength"**

**Isaiah 61:1-2, Matthew 9:35-38, John 14:12**

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.*

*Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."*

*"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."*

**Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:**

[illegible]

## Meditation Moments

**Monday, October 15** - Jesus called people into a life of discipleship. For many this call meant leaving at once all that was familiar and dear. Consider the following brief encounter from Mark 2:13. “Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. As he walked along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow me,’ Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.” Take time to reflect on your personal response to Jesus’ call to discipleship.

**Tuesday, October 16** – Jesus did not conceal the cost of discipleship. He never lowered the bar of for those who would be his followers, even if it meant that he would lose many people. To be Jesus' disciple includes embracing the cross of Christ. Consider this warning from Luke's gospel. Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: *"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."* What, or who, do you love more than Jesus? Is it really possible to love Jesus more than our loved ones?

**Wednesday, October 17**- To become willing to be Jesus Christ in the world is not an instant or emotional decision. This commitment is so significant it requires careful reflection and intentional resolve. Listen to how Jesus described this choice in Luke 14:28-33. *"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who do not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."* Are you willing to give up everything to be Jesus' disciple? What does this really mean for us today?

**Thursday, October 18**- The life of a disciple does have its rewards. What do you think Jesus meant by these words in Mark 10:29-31? *"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields – and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."* What does this mean to us in today's world?

**Friday, October 19** - Jesus spent over three years teaching, training and modeling the life of a disciple for his followers. He then left his mission, his ministry, in their hands. But he did not leave them alone and without divine resources. How does the Holy Spirit help us in the discipleship process? *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) How does the Holy Spirit help us in the task of communicating the gospel to others with our words and with our actions? Are there ways you are experiencing this reality?

**Saturday, October 20** – Spend some time thinking about the message "Serving God" and about the passages we've been reading in the meditation moments this week. If you still have the "Connection Card" about Serving God, pull it out and take a look at it. You will see multiple opportunities to take your next step and get connected by serving in one of the ministries at the church or within the community. These are not all the options, but they are some to consider. If you see something that interests you, pray about it and then consider filling out and returning your Connection Card to the main office at FUMC or dropping it in the offering basket next weekend. We would love to help you find a place to serve and to "Be Jesus Christ to the World". If you don't have your card, please pray and ask God to lay something on your heart this week. If he does, will you be faithful to follow through and get connected where he is calling you?