

## Series Recap (Reiterate the Why)

This series is about what God does in a believer when He is preparing them for *commission*.

Not just what we do publicly—but what we become privately.

- **Control** is what we reach for when we feel unsafe, unseen, or uncertain.
- **Compassion** is what God grows in us when we finally trust Him with our pain.
- **Commission** is what happens when God can send us without our wounds leaking into our assignment.

During Part 1 we exposed a truth many don't like to admit:

- We call it “**discernment**,” but it's really **control**.
- We call it “**protection**,” but it's really **insecurity**.
- We call it “**wisdom**,” but it's really **ego** trying to stay in charge.

It isn't God's goal to shame us—His goal is to **heal us** so He can **use us**.

Before we go forward, we have to remember what God already said in.

1) (Luke 9:49–50)

John saw a man casting out demons **in Jesus' name** and said, “We forbade him because he does not follow with us.”

- Not because the fruit was wrong.
- Because the fellowship wasn't “with us.”

The issue wasn't “**Is this true?**” The issue was “**Is this ours?**”

2) Jesus measures fruit, not affiliation

Jesus didn't ask if the man was one of the twelve. He gave a Kingdom principle:

- “**Do not forbid him, for he who is not against us is on our side**” (Luke 9:50).

We understand this to be true through supporting scriptures:

- **Mark 16:17** — deliverance as a sign that follows believers
- **1 Corinthians 12:3** — the Spirit exalts Jesus as Lord

3) Insecurity creates gatekeepers

When people feel unsure of their own place, they start trying to control everybody else's place.

4) Kingdom unity is bigger than our preferences

The disciples drew lines based on association; Jesus drew lines based on opposition.

- **Luke 9:50** (don't forbid the helper)
- **Matthew 12:30** (don't excuse the opposer)

**Callback line:** - So Part 1 confronted **control**.

Now Part 2 confronts what often comes right behind control when we've been wounded:

**harshness.**

Because when you can't control people, rejection will tempt you to punish them.

Sermon Title

## Part 2: When Rejection Makes You Harsh:

The Spirit of Elijah vs. The Spirit of Jesus

Source Scripture: Luke 9:51–56

When the days drew near for Him to be taken up, Jesus set His face to go to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of Him, and they entered a village of the Samaritans to make preparations for Him. But the people did not receive Him, because His face was set toward Jerusalem.

And when His disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

Opening

Family, Luke 9 is a masterclass in how Jesus forms His disciples.

In Luke 9:49–50, Jesus corrected **control**.

Now in Luke 9:51–56, Jesus corrects something else that shows up when you've been rejected:

**harshness.**

- Because rejection has a voice.
- And if you don't let Jesus heal what rejection did to you, you will start calling your

harshness **holy**.

Some people don't just walk away from you—they *trigger something in you*.

And that “something” will either be healed by Jesus... or it will be weaponized through your mouth.

Big Idea

Rejection will always try to make you **harsh**.

And if you don't let Jesus heal what rejection did to you, you will start calling your harshness “**discernment**,” “**boundaries**,” or “**truth**.”

Luke 9 exposes a sobering reality:

- You can be **close to Jesus** and still be operating in the **wrong spirit**.
- You can quote Scripture and still miss the heart of God.
- You can want judgment when Jesus wants redemption.

## I. Rejection Is a Trigger—Not a License

The Samaritans rejected Jesus.

And rejection is real. It hurts. It stings. It can embarrass you.

But rejection is never permission to become cruel.

A. Rejection reveals what's in you

James and John's response wasn't just about the Samaritans.

It exposed what rejection awakened in them.

- Pride
- Anger
- A need to “win”
- A need to prove something

B. Rejection can make you confuse pain with purpose

- They thought they were defending Jesus. But they were really defending their ego.
- When you're unhealed, you don't just feel rejected—you feel *threatened*.”
- Rejection doesn't just test your patience; it tests your spirit.

## II. The Spirit of Elijah: When Power Becomes Punishment

James and John said: “Just as Elijah did.”

They were referencing **2 Kings 1:9–12**, where fire came down and consumed the captains and their fifties.

Here's what they were saying:

- "Let's use spiritual power to punish people who disrespected us."

#### A. The danger of the selective Bible

- They had a verse.
- They had a precedent.
- But they did not have the *mind of Christ*.
- You can be biblical and still be wrong—if you're using the Bible to justify your brokenness."

#### B. When rejection is unhealed, it looks for a weapon

- Some people don't just want to be right—they want to make somebody pay.
- And the quickest way to make harshness feel righteous is to attach it to Scripture.

#### C. Elijah's moment was judgment; Jesus' mission is salvation

Elijah's fire was connected to a specific prophetic context.

But Jesus reveals the Father fully.

- Elijah called fire down.
- Jesus took fire on His own back.

### III. "Read Scripture with Scripture": The Mission of Jesus Interprets the Moment

- This is why we have to read Scripture with Scripture. James and John said, "Just as Elijah did."
- But Jesus said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of... the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

So let's let Jesus interpret Jesus.

#### A. Luke 9:54–56 must be read with Luke 19:10

Luke 19:10

***<sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.***

Meaning: if your response to rejection is to destroy, you are out of alignment with His mission.

B. Luke 9:54–56 must be read with John 3:17

John 3:17

***17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.***

Meaning: condemnation feels powerful, but it's not Christlike.

C. A Kingdom check you can preach

- If my response doesn't match His mission, then I'm operating in the wrong spirit."
- This is not softness—this is salvation.
- Because Jesus is not building arsonists. He's building ambassadors.

IV. The Spirit of Jesus: Authority With Mercy

Jesus rebuked them. He didn't rebuke the Samaritans. He rebuked His disciples.

A. Jesus checks the spirit behind the action

"You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."

Meaning:

- "You don't realize what is driving you."
- "You don't realize what you're agreeing with."
- The enemy doesn't just tempt you with sin—he tempts you through a spirit."

B. Jesus defines His mission

"The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them."

If what you're about to do doesn't match Jesus' mission, it's the wrong spirit.

**Bridge sentence:** - The question isn't, "Can I do it?" The question is, "Does it look like Jesus?"

V. When Rejection Makes You Harsh: Symptoms to Watch

This is where you make it personal and introspective

- You get sarcastic and call it "truth."
- You get cold and call it "wisdom."
- You cut people off fast and call it "boundaries."
- You stop praying for them and start preaching about them.
- You want God to expose them more than you want God to save them.

Harshness is often grief that never got healed.

**Heart-check questions: -**

- Am I trying to restore them or am I trying to *win*?
- Am I protecting truth or protecting my ego?

VI. Compassion Is Not Weakness—It's Christlikeness

- Compassion doesn't mean you tolerate sin.
- Compassion means you don't lose your soul while confronting it.

A. Jesus can confront and still be compassionate

- He confronted Peter.
- He restored Peter.

B. Commission requires compassion

Because if God sends you while you're harsh, you will:

- wound the weak
- crush the bruised
- break the downtrodden

And you'll call it "ministry."

But Jesus is forming a different kind of disciple.

Practical Application

1) What did rejection teach me to become?

- defensive?
- controlling?
- suspicious?
- harsh?

2) Who do I want the fire for?

- Name it. Because the people you want judged are often the people you're still wounded by.

3) Ask: What would Jesus want for them?

Not what your flesh wants.

What does Jesus want?

- repentance
- restoration

- salvation

#### Transition to Altar Call

Family, Jesus is not just correcting what we do—He’s correcting what we are.

- In Week 1, He corrected control.
- In Week 2, He’s correcting the harsh spirit that rejection tries to produce.

Because Jesus is preparing us for **commission**.

And if we go into our assignment harsh, we will misrepresent the One who sent us.

But the good news is this: the same Jesus who rebukes us is the Jesus who restores us.

He doesn’t expose to shame—He exposes to heal.

#### Declaration (Corporate “We”)

- We will not minister from our wounds.
- We will not punish people to prove a point.
- We will not call harshness holiness.
- We will carry authority with mercy.
- We will represent Jesus in our tone, our words, and our decisions.

#### Closing (Commission)

Family, this is how God prepares disciples.

He doesn’t just give us power.

He gives us His heart.

And when rejection tries to make us harsh, we have a choice:

- the spirit of Elijah—power without compassion
- or the Spirit of Jesus—authority with mercy

And tonight we choose Jesus.

## **Altar Call**

If you're here today and you know you need Jesus—this is your moment.

And if you're here and you've drifted, grown cold, or you've been living more for your own way than His—this is your moment too.

## **Prayer**

Father, we repent for every time rejection made us harsh.

We repent for every time we tried to punish instead of pray.

Heal the places where we became defensive.

Heal the places where we became controlling.

Heal the places where we started calling bitterness “discernment.”

Give us the Spirit of Jesus—full of truth and full of grace.

Save the lost, restore the wandering, and make us one in Christ.

In Jesus' name, Amen.