

LOVE *Where You* LIVE



Sermon Outline

Key verse

As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.

John 20:21

Following Jesus is about choosing to step out of our comfort and into our calling

1. Following Jesus means taking risks

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:13-14

2. Following Jesus is costly

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

Opening Thought

Comfort can be good, but comfort becomes a problem when it is seen not as a gift but as a goal. To live out our calling as "sent," there are times when comfort has to go.

Ice breakers

- What is your go to comfort food?
- What do you love about your community?
- What things bothers you about it?
- What would you like to see change?

Dig deeper

- Read Esther 4:1-17 together. Why do you think Esther first responded as she did to Mordecai?
- Why do you think Esther changed her mind?
- Imagine that you are Esther. How do you think you would have felt when receiving the message from Mordecai asking you to make a plea to the King?
- Read Matthew 16:24. What was Jesus suggesting the disciples do?
- What comfort zones might the Lord be calling you to leave? What is the most uncomfortable thing about that?
- How would you put Matthew 16:24 into your own words?

Closing

Could there be areas in your life where you may be in a unique position to make a difference? This week look at your relationships, talents you may possess, positions you may hold, and places of influence you may have in a different light.

Is there an area of comfort that you may need to shake things up to step into your calling?