

Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).

I am a preacher's kid and a preacher's grandkid. My Dad and my Grandpa were both preachers in the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Every year our church would hold mission's conferences, and missionaries from around the world would come and show us pictures of the people they were sent to. And because I lived in the preacher's house, the missionaries were often our guests for Sunday dinner. There was one missionary couple I distinctly remember, Ed and Shirley Maxey. God sent the Maxey's to the cannibalistic, tribal people of Irian Jaya (Papua New Guinea). When the Maxey's came over for lunch, I was fascinated by the stories they told about the people of Irian Jaya. I also wondered, how was it the tribe didn't have the Maxey's for lunch... literally?

In today's message, we learned that Jesus sends some of His followers to be missionaries around the world. However, most followers of Jesus are missionaries who stay in one place. Are you a follower of Jesus? Then He has sent you to your community, to your street, to your neighbor. As sent people, we go to prepare the way for Jesus; we are called to pray for more workers to be sent; and we must anticipate opposition. It was this last point that reminded me of Ed Maxey. Ed also wondered why he was not on the menu when he first walked down a mountain in Irian Jaya to meet the tribe living in the valley. After many years, living with and becoming friends with the people of Irian Jaya, he asked the tribe elder this very question. He said to him, "when I came down the mountain, why didn't you kill me and the man with me?" And the tribal elder responded, "We were afraid of the warriors who came with you." I still remember Ed leaning in toward the table, smiling and whispering, "We thought we were alone, but God sent warrior angels with us."

It is true, when you step into your sent-ness and say to God, "Here I am Lord, send me to Hamilton County... to Noblesville, Fishers, Carmel, Westfield, Atlanta, Cicero, and Arcadia," you will face opposition. When you do, remember this: (1) those that oppose you are opposing Christ, not you. (2) Just as God sent warriors with Ed Maxey, when you pray and make yourself available to prepare the way for Jesus, He will send warriors with you, for the battle belongs to the Lord. (3) There are no cannibals living in Hamilton County.

- View your everyday life through the lens of a missionary. If this is a challenge for you, what is holding you back?

- What emotions do you feel when you anticipate opposition? Read Romans 8:31-39. How can you apply this truth to overcome and conquer any fear you might experience when you anticipate opposition?
- Small Group/Bible Study Challenge: Read 2 Kings 6:8-23. What can we learn from this about how God deals with opposition? Read James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-5; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:41. When our sent-ness results in opposition, how should we respond?
- When GOD starts something BIG, He starts it through some form of sending. He told Abraham to go, He sent Moses to set His people free, He sent Joshua to walk around a city seven times, He sent David to kill a giant, He sent Esther to talk to a king, and He sent Jesus to die for the sin of the world. In the example of Esther, her Uncle said to her, "You are here in this place for such a time as this. If you don't do this, if you don't go, God will send someone else. You and your family will suffer harm, and someone else will be used to the glory of God." (Paraphrase of Esther 4:14) Who is God sending you to? It is time you embrace your sent-ness, commit it to prayer and go. The Lord will be with you!

