

Living the Commission

August 27th 2006

Introduction:

*What is the most exciting news you have received in the last month?
What is the most exciting news you have ever received?*

- The Gospel – death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and how he now extends that to us.

Tonight we are going to talk about some good news. Jesus died for you and if you are a Christian, he expects that the news about his resurrection will not stay in our hearts but will be told by us to others. God's commission to reach the lost was not to a few men 2000 years ago but is also for us today. Let's look at Matthew 28:18-20 and discuss how this passage impacts our view of evangelism.

Text:

Read Matthew 28:18-20

The Commission:

Jesus gave them and us a command, to "make disciples."

What things does Jesus say need to happen for us to make disciples?

- To go to them, to baptize them, and to teach them.

What promise does Jesus make to his disciples in verse 20?

- To always be with them even to the very end.

In what way is his promise in verse 20 tied to his commission in verse 19?

- It empowers and encourages us to do what he says to do because we won't be doing it alone – he will be with us. God made a similar commission and promise of his presence in his call of Jeremiah (Jer 1:6-9).

What does Jeremiah have to say about God's providing all we need to do what he says?

In what way does Jesus' promise bring us comfort in our commission?

- In his presence and by his power we can do anything (Romans 8:28).
- His promise to be with us brings us a renewed comfort that when we talk to others about him, we are about his

business here on earth. There is no more comfortable place to be than with him.

What added significance is given to Jesus' words in Matthew 28 due to the fact that they were some of Jesus last words?

- You don't normally have much small talk for your last words.
- Parting words are normally the things you wish for someone to hear the most. Therefore they carry a great amount of weight.

How has Satan used our comfort as a barrier to evangelism?

- Often we do not want to compromise our comfort. Evangelism is often viewed as an uncomfortable situation because you are dealing on the deepest level of someone's life.

Jesus' Mission:

There is no doubt that God has a great amount of love for us. It is evident in who he made us to be and how far he has been willing to go to redeem us from our sin. Jesus' mission on earth was to make our relationship with God right through the shedding of his perfect blood (Hebrews 9:15). His resurrection from death was an invitation for us to share in this new life (Romans 6:1-6).

Jesus' Model of Evangelism:

We want to look at **three areas** of Jesus model of evangelism and talk about how we can implement them in our own lives so we can fulfill his commission for us in Matthew 28.

Jesus' Model of Evangelism:

- It was Sufficient
- It was Relational.
- It was about Service

It Was Sufficient:

Before anything else we must realize that what Jesus did on earth was sufficient to save people from sin. If we do not realize that, nothing else will matter.

Read Hebrews 10:11-15 [Note: In verse 12, "this priest" refers to Christ.]

This passages talks about how the Old Testament was insufficient because sacrifices had to be made day after day.

How was Christ's sacrifice different than the priests of the Old Testament?



It Was Relational:

- Christ's was a one-time sacrifice that never needed to be repeated because it was **sufficient** to take away our sins and make us holy (10:12, 16).
- The Old Testament sacrifices were **temporary**, Christ's was **forever** (10:16)

Christ's ministry was relational. He did not stay in isolation to others but he went to them and gave them a chance. He didn't always go to all the nice people either, but even to people who society wouldn't give a chance.

Who are some people in scripture Jesus took time to relate to?

What does that teach us about who we reach out to?

How are relationships with others essential to effective evangelism?

It Was About Service:

Jesus' mission was characterized by service. Service is always characterized by humility as it involves a lowering of self and an extension of grace toward others who may or may not deserve our service.

Jesus had a lot to say about service— Read Matthew 23:11-12

How does this passage flip our upside down view of value right-side up?

- It gets us looking at life the way God looks at life. The people we place on top of the pile are not always the ones God chooses to place on top.

Application:

He not only spoke about it, he also lived it— Read Philippians 2:5-11


How does serving others help us to have an attitude like Jesus?

How does his example and lowering from heaven to earth, spirit to flesh, help us humble ourselves and serve others?

How would our lives look different if as we interacted with others we remembered our calling to "make disciples"?

Which part of the commission (going, baptizing, or teaching) is the most challenging part of making disciples for you in your walk?

- Remember, going does not mean you have to go to an



other country but could mean going to a friend, family member or neighbor.

Which relationships do you already have that could be used to draw others to God?

What acts of service could you do for others that might open them up to seeing Jesus modeled in your life?

Exercise:

This week, take out an index card or blank piece of paper and write down the names of 3 people who are not Christians. Begin to pray for them daily. Pray for the following:

- 1) That their hearts will be softened to the good news about Jesus.
- 2) That you will find an open door to invite them to church or LIFE group.
- 3) That when God opens the door that you will step through it and invite them.