Sent #7 – "*So Send I You*"
John 20:19-23

Before the foundation of the world,

- God knew **the plight** of a lost world,
- God had **a plan**, the only plan, to rescue and redeem it.
- God so loved the world that **He sent His only Son to a condemned world to save it!**

In Gethsemane Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but thine be done". Hours later He died on the cross for you and me – for the world!
But that wasn't the end of the story.
Jesus did the impossible.

- He rose from the dead!
- He appeared to His disciples. Our text today invites us into the First Sunday night service after His resurrection.
    - Knowing their fear, He spoke - "***Peace be unto you…"***
    - In the same breath, He repeated to them again the words they had heard Him pray in the upper room. He declared again, ***"as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you***."

Last week, we focused on Jesus' personal prayer request –

"***Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*** Matthew 9:38

Today, we become part of the answer to His prayer.

I. The Model.

"So send I you"" – i.e. - "***Just the same; In the same manner***"

The Lesson/Reference/Model "***As*** the Father sent me, ***so…***"

It was planned.

- First, His plan to redeem YOU.
- Then, His plan to send you as His child into the world with the gospel of Jesus!

It was costly.

- The Father knew…
- Jesus knew precisely what it would cost for us to become children of God. Cf. John 3. We are familiar with the famous 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave..." What we often miss is His revelation right before that: "Even so must the son of man be lifted up" – Speaking of the cross!

It will cost.

It was personal.

Jesus didn't come because He had to; He came because He chose to. It wasn't nails that held Him to the cross. It was love.

(I. The Model)

II. The Mission

A. During His ministry, Jesus asked His disciples to pray.

- Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send forth laborers.
- He asks us to pray.

B. Now, He directs us to be the answer to His prayer.

God sent His Son to the cross to do what no other could do.

Now, He distinctly, emphatically, earnestly, expectantly sends us!

- **It is not a matter of whether we want to or not… whether we like it or not. Whether we understand it all or not!**
- **It is a matter of obedience.**

Consider how many times and ways Jesus stressed His mandate:

- Twice - "***So send I you***"
- "***Go ye therefore***…" – Matthew 28:18-20
- "***Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.***" Mark 16:15
- Acts 1:7 ***"… But you shall receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon you. And you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem… to the ends of the earth."***

His Mission Is Now Ours Too!

Before we close, consider two questions: "**Why?" and "How?"**

III. The Motivations

- *Why?*
- *Why drop what we want for what He wants?*
- *Why do something that might seem uncomfortable, or might even cost us?*
- ***Why should I tell someone about Jesus?***

These are just a few of the reasons…

A. Jesus said to. It is just that simple.

B. Gratitude.

On the cross, Jesus made a very personal, difficult request of John concerning His mom. "John, would you take care of my mom?" Can you even imagine John saying no… standing before Jesus literally dying for him and the world?!

As we lift our hearts to our Savior, how could we do anything but what He asks, what would please Him?

After all He has done for us, how can we say "*no*"?!

C. The condition of the lost.

- ***Do we really believe that without Jesus there is no hope?***
- ***Do we really believe in Hell?***
- ***Do we really believe the lost are utterly lost?***

D. Joy!

Jesus, speaking of the love of God for the lost in Luke 15-

> ***"joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth… there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one lost sinner that repenteth…"***

Jesus, speaking to His Father before He walked to Gethsemane…

> *"…these things I speak in the world,* ***that they might have my joy*** *fulfilled in themselves."* John 17:13

Jesus: "***Who for the joy*** ***that was set before Him endured the cross…"*** Hebrews 12:2

E. Acceptance, approval and reward!

2 Corinthians 5

9. Wherefore we labor, that… ***we may be accepted of him.***

10. For we must appear before the judgment seat (bema) of Christ…

11. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men…"

F. Love!

2 Corinthians 5 (NIV)

14. ***For Christ's love compels us***, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

15. And he died for all, that those who live **should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.**

18. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation:**

19. that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And **he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.**

20. **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

I believe all of that. But what am I supposed to do - tomorrow?

IV. The Means – ***"How?***

A. Let the indwelling Christ shine through you!

- **"Witnesses"**
- Matthew 5- **Salt and Light!**
- 1 Peter 3:15
  "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you"
  If Jesus is really real to us, He will be seen through us!

B. Start at home!

- Andrew first found his brother Simon (Peter)
- Zacchaeus
- Philippian Jailor

C. Invite others –
"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23

- ***To Jesus*.** Simply share with others what Jesus has done for you and can do for them!
- ***To Church to see and hear about Jesus!***
  3 hints -
  - *Not a good place*
  - *Not prepared for this*
  - *Not in church/New*

What if the answer to the prayer Jesus asked us to pray is sitting in the very pew where we're praying it?

- ***We have seen what Jesus has done!***
- ***Now He turns to us and says, "So send I you."***

The Bible ends – The book of **Revelation, Chapter 22**, the last chapter – reminding His disciples

12. "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me…
14. "Blessed are they that do his commandments…"
17. The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst, come…"

Souls are crying men are dying
Won't you lead them to the cross
Go and find them help to win them
Win the lost at any cost