

## I. Sent #1 – As My Father... Sent Me

### John 17:18, 20:21

#### Introduction:

As I grew up, one of my favorite shows was a title all of you will recognize:

#### **Mission Impossible.**

Each week, the lead character would be presented an impossible, life or death assignment. *“Your mission, should you choose to accept it...”*

Then, the hero characters went on at **great personal risk** to **defy all odds** and **accomplish the impossible, saving the world** - week after week.

It has since been turned into one of the biggest blockbuster movie series of all time.

There's something in us that loves stories like that. We want the impossible overcome. We want evil defeated. We want somebody to win when there seems to be no hope.

Maybe C.S. Lewis was right. Our fascination and love for the action and the outcome, played out on movie screens and in literature, is but a reflection of the hunger in every person.

- The hunger for a happy ending in spite of a world of evil.
- The ability to defy all odds and win when it seems impossible.
- Of Hope.

Unfortunately, when the movie is over, or the book is read, and we return to our real lives, the hopes continue but inevitably fall short.

- The hunger, the thirst, the longings **are all real. For everyone.**
- The impossible is also real. **Every avenue of hope - not enough.**

#### **Until...**

**Our hearts and minds are turned to**

- **The living, real God with whom all things are possible.**
- **A mission impossible gloriously achieved in the real-life gospel of Jesus.**

Interested?

For the next several weeks, **we turn to a real Mission Impossible.** God's Mission Impossible.

- We will observe, **hopefully in the vibrant, pulsating living color of revelation – the drama as week after week the odds are defied, the impossible is experienced, and hope is born!**
- Then, as we close the adventure in a few weeks, you and I will be brought into the adventure. We will be presented a mission, **God’s mission, “Should you choose to accept it...”** More of that later...

As we saw last week, in Our Lord’s Prayer, Jesus prayed for us immediately before Gethsemane, Judgment, Calvary. **Hours before He was betrayed and crucified, and then hours after His resurrection, He spoke almost the same words, words we will explore the next few weeks.**

**“Sent”** is our series.

***“As my Father Sent Me”*** is our first session.

## **I. His Plan.**

Our series name- **“Sent”** is **but an echo of the truth presented throughout the ministry of Jesus – *Jesus is God’s plan!***

**Inherent in the simple statement is**

- **Intent**
- **Planning**
- **Fulfillment**

Not only do we find Jesus stating that He was **“sent” 5 times in John 17, and then in our text in John 20, we find it often.** So often, perhaps, that we miss it because of the familiar and just pass right over it. Here are just a couple...

### **Luke 4**

17. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, **because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me** to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down.

#### John 6

29. *Jesus answered... This is **the work of God**, that ye believe on him whom **he hath sent**.*

#### **The Creator of the World was the Author of Salvation.**

According to Scripture, **it took Him six days** to create the heavens and the earth and all that are in them.

**His plan of salvation** was formed before creation, prophesied, foreshadowed, repeated over thousands of years, **and then**

***"...when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son..."***

Galatians 4:4

#### **God's Plan.**

Then, **"As the Father sent me"** also unveils

#### **II. His Purpose.**

Not just **what**, but **why? Why** did the Father send Jesus?

**Many of us can answer that question, but He always draws us back to it to be reminded... refreshed... or perhaps for someone to hear it personally for the first time!**

#### John 3

*Why?*

16. **For God so loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- Love.
- Inescapable doom.
- People hopelessly lost.

*Why?*

17. **For God sent not his Son into the world** to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.**

- **Rescue! Redemption. Salvation!!**

John 6 – Jesus -

38. For I came down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

**What is His will?**

40. **And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life..**

Peter... **“The Lord is... is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** (2 Peter 3:9)

**Why?**

**It is a rescue mission. Mission impossible. But it is more. So much more!**

**God not only wants to keep us from perishing and save us from our sins, He wants *us*.**

- *He wants relationship.*
- *He wants us to be and live His children!*
- *He wants us to experience His love.*

Jesus, in His final prayer, ends...

John 17

26. ... that **the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.**

**Not just us – “the world!”**

23. ... **that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them,** as thou hast loved me.

John would decades later write in wonder - 1 John 3

1. **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...**

Finally, those few words lead us to....

**III. The Person of the Plan. “Me”**

As Jesus spoke – **hours before His crucifixion** (17:18), and **hours after His resurrection** (20:21) – **He was the punctuation mark of God’s plan!**

- **He was the hero** God chose, promised and provided.
- **He was – is - the redeemer and Savior of the world.**

#### **A. He was the provision.**

Not one of many; The only one.

A short time before He prayed, Jesus declared simply,

***“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*** John 14:6

The Apostles would boldly proclaim after His resurrection and ascension, Acts 4: 12. ***Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.***

#### **B. He was the pattern.**

Over the next several weeks, we will journey with Jesus, draw close at every stop, and in every episode, learn from Him. We will...

- Watch where He goes and who He notices.
- Listen to what He says.
- See what moves His heart.
- See what He is willing to do.

#### ***“As my Father sent me”.***

As we watch, listen and learn, perhaps we will not only learn what it means, what we can learn from **who He was** and **what He did**,

But also see shadows of the mission He has for us, “Should we choose to accept it”