

## Vision Sunday



### **SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 28:16-20

### **OVERVIEW**

Martin shared how the vision of the Church remains the same: "Inviting Everyone to Encounter Jesus." The Elders' focus over the coming years can be summarised by the word "Culture." They want to see the Culture of the Church grow healthily and see the Church engaging with culture with grace and truth. Martin shared how we want to move from developing habits of attendance to habits of transformation. The key for this to happen is by growing in intimacy with Jesus, knowing and being known by another.

We saw 2 keys about intimacy through the Great Commission:

## **1. God's initiative.**

Jesus tells the 11, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." This promise is what we see throughout the Scriptures; the Lord initiates intimacy with His people. From Adam and Eve, Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, we see that God initiates intimacy.

So He has with us too; Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Our intimacy with God is not based upon our performance or our work for Him but on Him. He is the initiator, and that means the pressure is off. He won't reject or abandon us; He will remain faithful to us through all things. Suffering and hardship aren't God's punishment or distance, but He is with us in it.

## **2. God's invitation.**

God has drawn us to Himself, and the pressure is off, but we also see we have a part to play. Jesus tells His disciples to behold, which means "Don't miss this." He wants to make sure we don't miss His intimacy and is inviting us to play our part. Martin drew out two ways we can play our part, and that's by recognising:

### ***α. Intimacy is not a feeling but a relationship.***

James 4:8 shows us the invitation to draw near to God, and He will draw near to us. The verse continues by showing us how we draw close, and that's by cleansing our hands and purifying our hearts. Intimacy involves confession and repentance, not allowing ourselves to settle with sin but running to

Jesus. Intimacy involves walking daily with the Lord, as we see in Acts 2:42, devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching and prayer.

***b. Intimacy is not individual but communal.***

If we don't want to miss Jesus' invitation, we need to see it not through an individual lens but a community lens. We need one another; God uses the Church family to show His love. As we see in Acts 2:42, for the Church to walk with the Lord, we need to devote ourselves to fellowship, recognising our need for each other.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How do you think we can develop habits of transformation rather than attendance this year?
2. What struggles have you faced or do you face when it comes to knowing God's intimacy?
3. What encouragement does knowing God initiates intimacy bring you?
4. How can you play your part in knowing more of Jesus this year?