

INTRODUCTION

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to Acts chapter 1.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to Acts 1,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find Acts 1 on page **909**.

INTRODUCTION

So, last Sunday and today we are doing...

- a two-week topical mini-series...
- on the VISION of Fathom.

And next week we'll start a new sermon series through **SLIDE** 2 Samuel.

So, come back for that! It's a great book!

But last week all I did was teach through half of our vision: GO DEEP.

But we're asking: what does Fathom look like?

- Answer: It looks like a church that's going deep with Jesus!

But that is only the first half of our vision statement here.

And I won't be as long today, but we're tackling part two:

- **SLIDE REACH WIDE**

So, GO DEEP & REACH WIDE.

And we talked from Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission,

- where Jesus gives a mission to the church,
- which is to make disciples.

But today, in Acts chapter 1.

- We're mere moments before Jesus ascends to heaven.
- And here are Christ's final words to his church.

ACTS 1:8

[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

EXPLAIN: EITHER/OR

So, that’s the REACH WIDE thing.

- The church is to witness to Jerusalem,
 - that is where they were located.
- And Judea and Samaria,
 - that was the surrounding region.
- And to the ends of the earth.
 - That’s us!

So, GO DEEP, yes! But REACH WIDE.

Now, let me do a quick myth busting moment here.

- These two statements aren’t really separate.
 - We kinda emphasize them as two parts of our vision...
- but theologically you CANNOT have one without the other.

And Christians, even churches, have tried to separate them.

So, there are doctrinally sound Christians and churches.

- They know all the right things,
- and profess all the right things.
- But when the rubber meets the road...they DO zilch.

Listen...that’s not being faithful to the Bible.

- Jesus has all kinds of harsh words...
- for the religious elite...
- who neglect the least and the lost.

But on the other side of the spectrum...

- there are people and churches who are all about missions.
 - They feed the hungry,
 - and clothe the naked,
 - and love the immigrant.

But they don't care a lick for theology, or right belief, or even right behavior.

- As long as missions are happening...
- as long as social justice is being pursued...
- that's what the church is about.

But these two sides of the spectrum are prevalent.

And they're both wrong!

In the New Testament church...

- as they went deep...
- God added to their number...
- the church grew.

And I don't think it was because the Lord was mysteriously bringing people.

- I think as they did **GO DEEP...**
 - the way the Bible lays it out...
- it compelled them to **REACH WIDE...**
 - **AND** it was attractive to the point that people said,
 - *"I want in on that!"*

VISION

So, the leaders of Fathom have spelled out our vision of GO DEEP & REACH WIDE like this:

SLIDE *We are a community of believers in Jesus Christ who invite and welcome all people to discover and deepen their relationship with God through the study of and submission to God's Word, responding in a life of worship unto Him, and living faithfully in a biblical community with one another.*

That was last week. GO DEEP. But now here's the second half:

SLIDE *With an emphasis on equipping our people for ministry inside and outside the church, we reach wide to join on God's mission by sharing the Gospel and demonstrating His love to our neighbors, to our city, and to the ends of the earth.*

So, let's do what we did last Sunday, but now with this second sentence.

EQUIPPING

SLIDE *With an emphasis on **equipping our people for ministry** inside and outside the church...*

Now, this phrase is based on Ephesians 4 where it says...

- that God gives churches...
 - apostles,
 - and prophets,
 - and evangelists,
 - and shepherds
 - and teachers,
- to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
- for building up the body of Christ.

So, what that means is:

- God gives leaders to churches,
 - in a lot of different categories,
- but those leaders aren't meant to be the DOERS OF ministry.
- We're meant to be the EQUIPPERS FOR the ministry.
 - So, my job,
 - Kyle's job,
 - Amanda's job,
 - Karena's job,
 - Aubri's job,
 - the intern's job,
 - the elder's job...
- is to equip you for ministry.

GIFTS

Now, in 1 Corinthians 12 specifically,

- we find out about the topic of spiritual gifts.

And the way I define the idea of a spiritual gift is

SLIDE ANY ABILITY EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE CHURCH.

So, when a person gets saved,

- God ransoms and redeems,
 - not just the person,
- but our talents and abilities as well.
 - Each of us was born with a bent toward
 - things we're good at,
 - personality markers and skills that we just have.

And when you get saved,

- God takes the talents you have...
- and empowers you by the Spirit...
- to use them for the building of his kingdom.

ILLUSTRATION: PETER

I was thinking about this when I listened to our intern, Joel, preach a couple weeks ago.

- BTW: that dude is legit.
- Bro can preach!
 - Gosh, we'd better be thanking God for bringing guys...
 - who can do that kind of stuff here!

But Joel talked about Peter's denial of Christ.

And I know I've been historically hard on Peter,

- but he's just an easy target!

And I've gotta be careful...

- Because one day I'm going to meet Peter...
 - and I don't want him to, like,
 - sneak attack me,
 - and punch me in the neck.
 - Not sure if you're allowed to do that in heaven...

But you ever say something dumb?

- Like, you just open your mouth,
 - and out of it comes something totally inappropriate...
 - or ridiculous...
 - or dumb?

I get a face mic for a couple hours a week...
so, I do this all the time!

Well, our boy Peter...

- is the starting quarterback...
- for the varsity team...
- when it comes to saying dumb things.

On the mount of transfiguration...

- he suggested they build houses for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses.
- You remember this account?

SLIDE LUKE 9:33

[33] And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said.

The Bible’s even like,

- “Listen, give the guy break...
- he didn't know what he was saying!”

I mean, can you imagine this scene?

- The transfigured Jesus...
 - with the giver of the law, Moses...
 - and the greatest prophet, Elijah...
- And Peter speaks up...
 - “It's really good to be here!”

James and John have to be like, “Oh man...not now...”

SLIDE You remember the time...

- Jesus was forced to rebuke Peter...
- for suggesting He didn't need to go to the cross.
 - He called Peter Satan.
- Yeah, that was a good one!

Do you think Peter is cringing...every time he's reminded...

- of after the Last Supper...
 - when he tells Jesus...
 - NOT to wash his feet...
- and then says he actually wants Jesus to give him a bath.

Hey, you ever say dumb stuff? Yeah, so did Peter.

But in Acts chapter 2,

- on the day Peter received the Holy Spirit,
- the very thing he used to get in trouble for...
 - his big mouth...
- is what God uses.

And Peter gets up, filled with the Holy Spirit...

- and preaches the first sermon in church history...
- where 3000 surrender their lives to follow Jesus.

SLIDE He is equipped for ministry.

APPLICATION: SERVE TEAMS

All of us have gifts and are called to play a part in God's Kingdom.

- Spiritual gifts are given to every believer!
- Every believer has at least one spiritual gift.
- No believer has them all.

And we are a church where no one gets to ride the bench.

This is why we talk about SERVE TEAMS here at Fathom all the time.

- So, hey, we need you.
- We need your gifts being used in this church to build it up.
 - So, you've got those little forms on your seats.
 - Fill them out, and let's get you active in this place.

MISSION OF GOD

*With an emphasis on equipping our people for ministry inside and outside the church, **SLIDE** we reach wide **to join on God's mission...***

Now, the mission of God is a widely misunderstood doctrine.

So, last week, we covered the church's mission. Remember?

- The Great Commission.
 - What is the mission of the church?
 - To make disciples of Jesus!

But that is a part of the larger Mission of God!

- Now, if you're doing the Bible reading plan with us at Fathom,
- you've just read through Genesis.
- And in Genesis 12:1-3 we find one of the preeminent texts...
- on God's mission in the world:

SLIDE GENESIS 12:1-3

[1] Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So, God chooses Abraham...

- calls him to step out in faith.
- And promises to make him a nation and bless him...
 - with THE PURPOSE of blessing...
 - all the families of the earth THROUGH him.

Now, back to Acts 1:8

ACTS 1:8

[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

EXPLAIN

So, back in Genesis 12, God says,

- *“I’m going to bless all the families on the earth through you.”*

And then in Acts 1:8 Jesus says,

- *“I’m gonna fill you with the Spirit and power...”*
- *and you’re gonna be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”*

So, the promise from Genesis 12 continues through the church!

SLIDE The Mission of God is for us to join!

- God chooses people.
- Calls them to believe in him in faith.
- And promises to bless others through them.

So, listen...God saving you...isn’t just about you!

- He has a purpose for you.
- You get to join on God’s mission!

MISSION(S)

Now, we've gotta be careful not to mix up terms here:

- there is a difference between MISSION...
- and MISSIONS. Ok?

MISSION...

- is all that God is doing...
- in his great purpose...
- for the whole of creation...
- and all that he calls us to do...
- in cooperation with that purpose.

MISSIONS...

- are the multitude of activities...
- that God's people can engage in,
- by means of which they participate in God's mission.

Now, how do we AT FATHOM join on God's mission?

SHARE & DEMONSTRATE

*...we reach wide to join on God's mission **SLIDE** by **sharing the Gospel and demonstrating His love...***

We SHARE and we DEMONSTRATE.

Now, when I first became a Christian, more than 20 years ago...

This DEMONSTRATE thing was big...but kinda weird.

- So, there was this fad going around, maybe it still is,
- but you would wear a t-shirt with a hoaxy saying on it.
 - Like, instead of Reeces it would say Jesus.
 - Instead of Abercrombie and Fitch it would say
 - A Bread Crumb and Fish.

- Or you would wear a WWJD bracelet...
- or you'd put a Jesus fish on the bumper of your car...
- or once you turned 18, you'd get a cross tattoo...guilty!

And no shade to these things...except for the really bad t-shirts.

But the philosophy was...

- *"This is my testimony.*
- *People are gonna see this shirt or bumper sticker or tattoo...*
- *and they're gonna ask me about it...*
- *and I'm gonna get to share Christ with them."*

The big problem for me,

- was that no one asked about those dumb shirts...
 - except other Christians.

But it was a St. Francis quote which drove that philosophy.

He said, *"Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."*

Two problems:

- First, there's no record that St. Francis never actually said that.
- Second problem: that quote is dumb.

Like, I get the sentiment...

- Yes, you should preach the gospel in how you act...
 - we DEMONSTRATE God's love...
- But it IS necessary that you use your words...
 - we SHARE!

SLIDE ROMANS 10:14

[14] How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?

And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

TRANSITION

As a Christian, it is necessary that you SHARE the hope you have in Christ.

- So, JOINING ON GOD'S MISSION means...
 - You DEMONSTRATE God's love in what you do.
 - AND you SHARE God's love in what you say.

“But where am I supposed to do this demonstrating and sharing?”

- *Like, should I go on a missions trip or something?”*

Glad you asked...

VISION

So, **SLIDE** we reach wide to join on God's mission by sharing the Gospel and demonstrating His love **to our neighbors, to our city, and to the ends of the earth.**

So, this is a direct rip off from Acts chapter 1.

One more time Acts 1:8

ACTS 1:8

[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Ok, we just took those three things, and contextualized,

- our NEIGHBORS,
- our CITY,
- and the ENDS OF THE EARTH.

And just to clarify:

- When I say NEIGHBORS, I mean those in your spheres:
 - Where you live.
 - Where you work.
 - Where you go to school.
 - Where you play.
 - Where you shop.
 - Are you SHARING and DEMONSTRATING there?
- To your CITY...
 - So, Littleton...
 - Highlands Ranch...
 - Centennial...
 - Lakewood...
 - Englewood...
 - Parker...
 - Castle Rock...
 - Arvada...
 - Denver...
 - We've got people in all these cities.
 - Are you SHARING and DEMONSTRATING
 - God's love in your city?
 - This is one aspect of local missions...
 - And why we partner with a number of local orgs.
- And to the ENDS OF THE EARTH.
 - So, this might taking a mission trip to Thailand...
 - But it could be any place God burdens your heart for.

This is the vision for **SLIDE REACH WIDE**.

APPLICATION: GROWTH

So, with the last of our time.

- We've been talking a lot about the growth here,
 - and all the new people,
- and tonight at the annual meeting
 - we'll talk about adding services,
 - and trying to find a new facility,
 - and all that stuff.

And sometimes I hear people kinda bumming-out a bit...

- because Fathom is growing and changing...
 - like, they miss it when we were smaller...
 - and they felt like they knew everyone...
 - and we all fit in one service.

Now,

- there is a good and right and healthy mourning...
- that comes with a church's growth.

So, I remember when I could literally call the entire church body in 2 hours.

- When we first planted the church,
- I checked in with every person,
- every week.
 - Just like, *"what's going on,*
 - *what can I be praying for."*

That's cause there were only 40 of y'all.

- And I loved that season,
 - and that was sweet,
- but it couldn't last.

ILLUSTRATION: HARPER GROWING

It's just like watching your children grow.

- We love and cherish the memory of Harper's infancy.
 - But we don't miss not sleeping.
- And we look at videos of her as a toddler and miss those days.
 - But we don't want to go back to diapers.

You see, every stage is good and right and necessary.

- BUT...it's good when your kid grows.
- And the same is true for our church.

APPLICATION: ONE MORE

So, I didn't make this up, I've heard a number of other pastors use this.

- But the reason we have multiple services...
- and the reason we're talking about a new building...
 - isn't because we want to become a mega church.
- Listen, that is NOT on my agenda.

It's cause we never want to stop making room for **SLIDE ONE MORE**

The parable I had read over us, from Luke 15,

- Is called the Parable of the Lost Sheep.
 - It comes right before the famous Prodigal Son parable,
- but it's about a man who has 100 sheep...
 - loses one,
- and he leaves the 99 to find the one.

And here's what Jesus says in Luke 15:

SLIDE LUKE 15:5-7

[5] And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. [6] And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' [7] Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

APPLICATION: ONE MORE

Hey, Jesus is about **SLIDE ONE MORE**

And so, we're gonna be, too.

- Who is your ONE MORE?
 - Gosh, we all have someone...
 - who we would do just about anything...
 - to get them in a relationship with Christ.
- So, who's your ONE MORE?

I'm serious...I want you to grab a Connect Card and write their name down.

- Maybe carry it with you...
- Or tape it on your mirror...
 - Maybe don't hang it up in your cubicle at work...
 - "Hey Ted, why's my name on a card in your office?"

But I want you to start praying for ways...

- to SHARE and DEMONSTRATE God's love...
- to your ONE MORE.

I've got a ONE MORE. Actually, I've got a few...

- But man, I'm praying like crazy...
- and looking for every opportunity...
- to SHARE and DEMONSTRATE God's love to them.

Listen to me, we don't want to be a mega-church...

BUT WE WILL NEVER STOP WANTING ONE MORE.

- One more person to come.
- One more person to hear the Gospel.
- One more person to bow the knee to Christ.
- One more person to baptize.
- One more person to go deep and reach wide.

ILLUSTRATION: MY STORY

Hey, you wanna know something?

- You were somebody's ONE MORE...
- and so was I.

I told you last week how I got arrested...

and ended up at a church doing community service.

And then a couple years later...

- a friend at school...
- invited me to go with him to his youth group.
 - I was his ONE MORE.

And I was very much Agnostic...

- like, I was not seeking at all.

But I went to church with this friend, and we pull up,

- and I did not realize that he went to the same church...
- I had cleaned years earlier.

And then, that same year, a different friend invited me to go to Young Life.

- Which was a Christian club that met in his basement.
 - Sounded like a cult!

- But I go to this club...
 - and I noticed a brochure for Young Life,
 - and on the back was a picture...
 - of the President of the organization: Denny Rydberg.

And I knew Denny.

- He had been my basketball coach the year before.
- AND he was the dad of my friend who had invited me!
 - But I had no idea he was the president...
 - of an international parachurch youth ministry!

And now I'm hearing a message about Jesus,

- at the president of Young Life's home,
- who I just happen to know personally.
 - I was their ONE MORE.

And I started doing math in my head.

- What are the chances that the place I did community service...
 - WAS the SAME church I was invited to?
- And what are the chances that my basketball coach...
 - turns out to be the leader of a global ministry,
 - AND I end up in his basement hearing the Gospel?

Theologically, this is called the effectual call of God...

- God was calling to...and wooing me.
 - I just didn't know it.
- But he called to me THROUGH...
- regular relationships with other Christians.
 - I was their ONE MORE.

This is the MISSION OF GOD.

CONCLUSION

Who's your ONE MORE?

Seriously...write their name on that card.

- Who's your ONE MORE?
 - Who is that person?
 - Is it a parent?
 - Or a child?
 - Is it a best friend?
 - Or a brother?
 - Is it a neighbor?
 - Or someone at work?
 - Who is that person...
 - who you would do just about anything...
 - to get them in a relationship with Christ?

You listen to me...they'll always be welcome here!

We'll always make room for ONE MORE!

ENDING

So, this is our **SLIDE W/PADS** VISION.

- Fathom Church is a church where we GO DEEP
- and REACH WIDE.

Cause that's what Jesus is about.

- He came to seek and save the lost.
- And God invites us to join him on that mission.

Let's pray together.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

- Martin, Joby. *One More*.
- Wright, Christopher. The Mission of God's People.