

Good morning, Heartland.

Good morning.

I got to give you guys a little update.

If you're new here, welcome to Heartland.

We're so glad that you're here.

This church is a church that gives and prays and sends people out, and I'm one of those people that were sent out.

You guys gave and you prayed.

So we were a church plant that started during COVID, and you prayed for us and you still gave.

So four years later, you guys were like, hey, we love you, but we're going to keep supporting other church planters.

But we have flew.

We're flying.

So the church is self-sustainable and we're moving out.

Yes, that's a clap.

That's a clap.

That's a, that's a clap.

That is a clap.

And we are moving out of the YMCA into a building, which is a, Whoa.

Yeah.

Come on somebody.

We're about to be Pentecostal in this place.

Cause we set up and tear down every Sunday and

Every Sunday for four years, the team has done an amazing job.

And I want to say thank you.

Thank you for giving.

Thank you for praying.

Thank you for being the type of people that you are.

That the gospel of Jesus is being spread in all different types of places.

And that doesn't count the baptism.

We had our, I don't even know what the number is.

Is it the 27th?

The 21st baptism we had was yesterday.

And it was just awesome to see this young boy give his life to Jesus and get baptized.

We all celebrated with him.

And you, you were a part of that.

And I want to say thank you for that.

And so also being part of Heartland, I don't know if you knew, but...

you have some vision that has been posted before we even started worship.

And I want to remind you of this because it's important.

Heartland is called to remain in Jesus, to connect as a family, and to share the gospel, right?

We have remain in Jesus.

Connect as a family and share the gospel, right?

And Heartland exists to glorify God by multiplying communities.

And these three things do this.

Now, here's one thing.

We know that Jesus is lifted up above on high in this place, from the worship to the word, amen?

Amen, we got that.

Now, your favorite time is the connecting as a family time.

Cause we can't keep y'all quiet for nothing.

Like you guys are loud.

Like you guys really like it.

I thought, I thought Austin was kind of being funny.

Like this is your favorite time.

Like this is really your favorite time.

So I'm going to talk about maybe the thing that isn't as your favorite.

Share the gospel.

And so we're going to go to Matthew.

And as we're diving into the letter of Matthew, we're going to be at the very, very end.

And so when we talk about something serious as sharing the gospel, it isn't an additional activity for really serious Christians, right?

It's part of what we were made for.

And so let me ask you, why are you here?

Like not at Heartland, not just this morning.

Like why are you here on earth?

Because if you don't understand your purpose, you'll spend your life living for whatever the world offers you, right?

So imagine buying a phone.

We got some phones in our hands right now.

Imagine buying a phone and you have a phone and a phone is powerful.

A phone can take pictures.

A phone can go on the internet.

Like what is that, right?

A phone can go on social media.

You can buy things off your phone.

You can buy something within 24 hours and it could be shipped to your house.

Like it's crazy what a phone can do.

Now imagine if you had your phone and you just used it as a paperweight.

Like it can hold down paper.

For sure, but that's not what it's made for.

Church, you are made for mission.

And some of you are just being paperweights in your community.

You're just kind of like, I go to Heartland.

Yeah, that's nice.

But like the Lord has actually designed you for so much more, right?

Jesus has saved you.

He has loved you.

He has filled you with this spirit and now you're part of his family.

And so we've forgotten that we were made for mission.

And so the world will tell us, hey, build your career, raise your family, make some money, get comfortable, enjoy yourself, build the life you want.

And none of those things are bad.

But the problem with this thing is we start to treat the good things as the ultimate thing.

What do I mean by that?

Our jobs become the ultimate.

We rise and fall according to our job.

Our children become the ultimate.

They're awesome.

We love kids here.

But they are not the ultimate.

our comfort becomes the ultimate.

Our retirement becomes the ultimate.

And we start to forget, why did the Lord actually send us here?

Like, why did you come to Heartland?

Like, why are you on planet earth?

Why do you live in the neighborhood that you live in?

And so we've been asking Jesus to help us accomplish our life instead of his purpose for our life.

So when it comes to your workplace, when it comes to your neighborhood, when it comes to your children, when it comes to the sports teams that you're a part of, when it comes to the school district you're a part of, you're actually not there just to participate there.

You're actually there to be salt and light in your community.

What if everywhere God has planted your feet is part of the mission field he has given you?

So these are all platforms Jesus has now given us.

Jesus gives us our purpose.

So let's bridge this for the gospel of where we're going to be at in Matthew chapter 28.

The gospel comes before the mission, right?

So before Jesus sends us anywhere, we have to remember what he has done for us.

The Bible tells one unified story that leads to Jesus.

God created and made everything good.

It was good, it was beautiful, and he made everything

man and woman in his own image.

He created them, both male and female, to represent God.

And it was good.

And what we know is that sin entered into the world because we thought that there was something good outside of God.

The temptation has not stopped yet.

We are still being tempted to think that there's good outside of God.

And because of that, there's a cosmic fraction that went all throughout the

Hate, we have racism, we have violence, we have death, we have earthquakes, we have tsunamis.

Why?

Because sin has entered the world.

But we know that our God has not stopped.

He's been on a mission ever since.

He's been pursuing mankind that a snake crusher would come to take care of what we know as sin, which is brokenness, which we all feel.

We have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit that's been actively at work on mission

all throughout the ages.

And he sent his son, Jesus.

Jesus lived this perfect life.

He spoke to demons and they obeyed.

He spoke to nature and he could still storms.

He spoke with such authority.

You know Jesus's story.

And then what Jesus did, wrapped in flesh, decided to do because he had to take care of the ultimate problem, not just the fruit of certain issues in your life.

He wanted to take care of the root issue of your life.

And that was him sacrificing himself as a blameless lamb so that you can be free, not just free to do whatever you want, but free to live for him.

So for Heartland, when you think about your purpose and what God has called you for, I love what's even in the heartbeat of this church.

The heartbeat is this, that the gospel, you are gospel saturated because the gospel isn't just a doorway into Christianity.

It is the finished work of Jesus and how he shapes every area of your life.

Let me say this another way.

The same faith that saves you is the same faith that sustains you.

So your hope and faith in the Lord Jesus, that he lived, he died, he rose again, will sustain you all throughout your life.

And so with that being said, let's look at Matthew chapter 28.

And this is what we call the Great Commission.

And I just want to emphasize commission.

It is not the great suggestion.

It is not...

The great mission for the pastor, the great mission for the leader of GCs.

This is not the great mission and vision for the kids director.

Nope, this is for all believers.

It says this.

Now the 11 disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.

And Jesus came and said to them,

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

And so what I want us to see this morning is three things.

Point number one, Jesus has all authority.

Point number two, the mission is clear.

And then point number three, you're not alone.

You're not alone.

So this is for my note takers.

I don't know who takes notes here, but I have some note takers and they're really on it.

So I kind of slow down in that portion because I talk real fast, but also needs you to write this as well.

You are made for mission.

Won't you find a neighbor, any neighbor, pick a neighbor, find a neighbor maybe you're comfortable with and say, I am made for mission.

Oh, you're a really quiet church.

You were really loud for fellowship time.

So we're going to find a neighbor.

Go ahead, find a neighbor, find a neighbor.

And we're going to say it on three.

Say, I am made for mission.

We're going to say it on three.

One, two, three.

Woo, church, come on, somebody.

You were made for mission.

Here's my big idea.

Jesus saves us into his family and sends us together on his mission.

Jesus saves us into his family and he sends us together on his mission.

So point number one, Jesus has all authority.

Verse 18 gives it to us very clearly.

all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Notice Jesus doesn't start with, he doesn't begin with go.

He does not.

He begins with all authority.

Before Jesus gives his disciples the mission, he reminds them of who he is.

The resurrected Christ stands before them and declares all authority belongs to him.

Not some, all.

Authority over nature and nations.

Authority over disease and demons.

Authority over sin and death.

Authority over life.

Jesus is indeed king.

And this matters because our mission flows out of his authority.

Right?

We have any managers in the house?

Any managers?

We got a few managers.

We got one.

One manager.

Any parents in the house?

Any parents in the house?

We have 20.

All right?

All right?

All right?

So if you're over anything, there's a level of authority that you've been given.

We're called to steward that authority well, right?

Specifically with our children.

And, you know, even though they make us mad sometimes and they reflect us a lot and we cover it with our money and security and power, but the kids will demonstrate it all, right?

And so, but there's a level of authority that we have to share.

Like we can't just literally let them do what they want.

Because like, think about this.

If we let teenagers do whatever they want, they'll eat whatever they want and they'll sleep whenever they want.

And therefore they'll die, right?

My daughter thinks it's so cool that I stayed up to 2 a.m.

Honey, that ain't cute.

You get wrinkles because you stayed up because it's 2 a.m.

What are you talking about?

You do all that facial care so you can stay up at 2 a.m.?

That's not cool.

You want to sleep.

No, you don't want to eat nothing but sugars.

Elanis are not good for you.

Okay, stop drinking them all day.

Your heart's gonna palpitate.

Like I'm gonna have to pray that the Lord resurrects you, right?

And so with that, like the authority that's given and when I give instructions, I'm giving instructions because I want to give one life and protection.

The same way for you and I. All authority has been given to the Lord.

He is indeed king over all.

We're going because the king already won, right?

right?

And it's just like, the World Cup was really fun.

I don't know how you felt about it as an American.

I know for some of us, we get kind of weird when it comes to like football.

We already got football.

What are you talking about?

Like, no, think about it.

Football.

Like, I just need you to process that, right?

Think about that for a little bit.

But the whole world saw it.

And I couldn't keep up with all the games, but I would watch the highlight reels on YouTube on the TV.

And my kids would get excited because dad gets, if you can't tell, I'm a little passionate.

I get a little passionate, okay?

And so I'll watch a game and they'll say, okay, who are we rooting for?

I'm like, oh yeah, yeah, yeah, we're rooting for the team that's in white right now.

What they don't know is that I already know who wins.

I'm just watching the highlight reel.

But they're watching the highlight reel like it's real time.

Hold on, hold on to this thought.

They're winning, they're tussling.

The highlight reel is at least 10 minutes, y'all.

And finally, their team wins and they celebrate.

Why?

Because the team we were rooting for won.

Christian, you already won.

Jesus has already conquered death, hell, and the grave.

Like you have nothing to lose, like at all.

I know bills, I know your marriage, and I know your kids, and all these things are coming on all around you.

But at the end of the day, you have already won because Jesus has won.

And so there is a stance when it comes to his authority that you actually, you walk up straight a little bit.

Your chest out a little bit.

Even if you feel like you're losing here on earth, like life just isn't fair.

It's different for the Christian because failure is only a little preview of the ultimate victory that is to come when Jesus splits the sky.

Amen.

Like you're not going to fail when Jesus comes.

You're going to see that it's all been won by him.

He's done it all.

It doesn't matter what your SAT scores was.

It doesn't matter what your debt score is.

It doesn't matter how successful you think you are, if your stocks was awesome or wasn't awesome.

Actually, none of that matters when Jesus comes back.

But what does matter is your relationship with him.

But your attitude and your heart is a little different when you realize that you've already won.

Heartland.

The call is to remain, remain in him, see him.

So like Jesus himself says in John 15, remain in me.

So the mission doesn't begin with activity.

Mission begins with intimacy.

You can't, you know, suddenly make Jesus known if you're not learning to know him and enjoy him for who he is.

That's why these seminars are important.

That's why these GCs are important.

That's like when you get in, you're learning, it's important so that you can grow understanding of who God is.

You want to know God and you want to make him known.

So remain in Jesus and then share Jesus.

So the question is, who actually has authority over your life?

Who actually has authority over your life?

That's a real question that I think when you look at your finances and your time, it will tell you.

Go back to the phones.

I think all phones do this.

I'm an Apple user, and I know we're behind.

So I'm just going to publicly say this.

We are so behind on technology right now as Apple people.

But it gives me a report every Sunday, and it tells me how much time I spend in certain apps.

That can be humbling.

Because if your social media is higher than your Bible time, or your notes is higher than your text message, and your wife is like, why don't you text me?

And it's like you have all these things that are measurable facts.

There's no emotion behind it.

It's just telling you, no, you spend most of your time in this app.

And it just tells you.

And I think you and I need to do an honest evaluation when it comes to, if we call ourselves Christians, but we don't do the things that he's actually called us to do, are we actually Christians?

See, the thing about being an American is that we can put on whatever label we want without actually doing it.

We do this all the time with sports.

We do this all the time with all these different movements in groups that have been developed over time.

I identify as this and that.

And we can say all the things, but you don't have to do a thing about it.

All you do is talk about it, post about it, and you're about it.

But the kingdom of God is different.

See, it's more impactful than a post.

It's the way you live.

It's the way you think.

It's the way you speak.

Jesus is...

Indeed, the Savior and Lord of the world, is he yours?

While communities keep telling him, well, Jesus, I don't know what I think about this or this.

We look at the Bible and we say, Lord, if he's indeed Lord and Savior, we submit ourselves to what he says.

And even if it's uncomfortable, even if we don't vote according to that,  
problem or issue, we submit to it because he's already submitted to it.

He's given it to us to submit to.

God has already spoken.

He's given us his word.

And so what we humbly come to is to his word and say, okay, I'm yours.

So if Jesus is Lord, then your schedule belongs to him.

Your career belongs to him.

Your money belongs to him.

Your house belongs to him.

Your gifts belong to him.

Your future belongs to him.

And you belong to him.

Wow, Paul, that really sounds like a cult.

More sounds like if he's king overall, then he's actually king.

And sometimes we get it, because we don't have that here.

We just have a president, right?

And then we just wait a couple of terms and then we get another one, right?

And our life rises and falls sometimes and based on who's our leader, who's not our leader.

And I just wonder, is your life the same way with Jesus being your king?

Like, do you have a level of confidence to know that Jesus is indeed king, that you actually belong to him, that freedom is actually made available through him, that because of the one who has all authority is the same one who loved you enough to give you himself.

So remain in Jesus.

Why don't you find another neighbor, pick any neighbor, maybe pick a stranger and say, I am made for mission.

Oh, you need me to count for you.

I'll count.

I'll count.

I'll count.

Sorry.

Sorry.

Sorry.

I thought I was out of the military community.

We're still here.

On three.

One, two, three.

You guys are on it.

Oh, man.

Jesus saves us into his family and sends us together on his mission.

Point number two.

The mission is clear.

Some of you already know this, but let's look at it again.

Verse 19.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Come on now.

Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Here's the mission.

The mission, since the mission isn't all the other things, even though your job, your kids, and all those things are awesome, right?

That is not the ultimate mission.

What we're saying is the mission is to make disciples.

Everything else serves that purpose.

We gather to make disciples.

We preach to make disciples.

We have gospel communities to make disciples.

We serve our neighbors to make disciples.

We send missionaries to make disciples.

We plant churches and multiply communities by connecting as a family.

It's important.

So when we think about when Heartland wants to connect families and connect together, this is the heartbeat of what God has called us to do.

The Father has adopted us.

So we are family.

The Son has saved us.

So we are servants.

And the Spirit has sent us.

So we are witnesses.

That's discipleship.

Discipleship isn't come listen to professional Christian talk once a week.

No, discipleship happens in life, one-on-one, life in community, life on mission.

That's why you need gospel community.

Dang, Paul, you don't even go to this church and you're really pushing this hard because it's essential that you make gospel community a priority in your life.

It is important if you call yourself a Christian because you weren't saved just individually, even though that's beautiful and awesome.

You were saved collectively as a family.

And for the best way for you to grow is for you to show up and be part of that family.

Now, if you're going to be that crazy uncle that takes everything from people, we'll teach you.

You're still invited to the barbecue.

but you could be a mom or dad.

You could be a big brother or a big sister and you can help people along the way.

It's not every time you come into this building, it's not how can you serve me, but rather it's how can I serve and how can I receive from the Lord?

This is how we grow as a community because Christianity was never designed to be Jesus plus me, plus my Bible, plus leave me alone.

That's American Christianity, by the way.

That's what we want.

You just leave me alone.

I got my Bible, right?

And praise the Lord Jesus speaks to you when you have your Bible and you go alone and you're in that hunting stand and you're just waiting for that deer.

That's awesome.

But that is not the full totality and how you and I are to grow in Christ.

Every disciple is called to make disciples.

So here's the call.

What is a disciple?

It's an apprentice.

It's a student.

You are an ongoing student.

Well, Paul, I didn't do good in school.

That's okay.

You got God's spirit now.

You can do all things through Christ that strengthens you, right?

You can do it.

Well, Paul, I don't read like that.

Well, you're talking to a guy that had a 1.9 GPA graduating high school.

You're okay.

I'm okay, you're okay.

Why?

Because we got the Lord.

If you don't know what that, that's a D average, okay?

That's a D, let me just help you.

I struggled a lot, right?

But the Lord got me through and he can get you through too.

Let's not say, man, making disciples is really about those that really get excited about Jesus.

No, no, no.

Parents, you're already discipling your children every day of your life, whether you like it or not.

They get your cranky side.

They get your best side.

They get your sleepy side.

They get your hungry side.

They get all your sides, right?

They get all the versions of you.

And praise God, by the time they get out of your house, whether you kick them out of the house or they fly out of the house,

We're hoping that everything that we've invested into our children would pour out and they'd be upstanding citizens and love Jesus.

That's what we want, right?

We want them to do well.

We want that same thing for other people that we interact with as the family of God.

If we're going to be with each other for all of eternity, we want to help people to meet Jesus.

So it's not just for missionaries, right?

disciple making it's not just for even for gospel community leaders it's not just for um those who deem Jesus as the like you know people are get so excited about Jesus that's all they talk about is Jesus Jesus Jesus that's me and you're thinking oh of course of course you're gonna be a pastor because all you all you care about is Jesus I hear you but it's actually for the teachers

The students, the mechanics, the coaches, the stay-at-home moms, the business owners, the retirees, the artists, the construction workers, the nurses, et cetera.

Every disciple of Jesus is called to participate in helping making other disciples.

And I want to encourage you, Heartland, because I know that you're a giving church and I appreciate you and I love you, but you're not going to serve Jeff well if all you do is put money in a bucket, right?

Like, please don't just give your retirement money here.

Participate in what God is doing in this place as we make more disciples.

Your presence is actually more powerful than you think.

And so your workplace, guess what?

Mission field.

Your neighborhood, mission field.

Your kids' activities, mission field.

Your gym, mission field.

Your dining table, mission field.

Every place that God has placed you is where the Lord wants to make much of Jesus through.

Now, I'm not saying you need to preach a three-point sermon in every place, but what does it look like to honestly pray?

This is good for you.

If you're at work,

and someone annoys you, I just want to help you.

Pray for them.

Pray for them.

The Lord can do work.

Then, what does it look like?

We all know when you're in that lunchroom area, what is the Lord doing in your break room?

What is the Lord doing in those little moments?

Like, ask that question.

Like, Holy Spirit, why do you have me at this job at this time?

It's for somebody.

Right?

We get all frustrated because we're like, we want a better career or a better pay or a better whatever.

But the Lord has uniquely placed us by his sovereign grace and his providence alone that he's placed us in certain places to make much of him in.

And maybe it's to pray.

Maybe it's to speak up.

Maybe it's to invite people in.

Maybe it's to share the good news in some type of shape or fashion.

But I wanna tell you, it's not just to pray for them, right?

We must share the word.

Tell people about the gospel.

How has Jesus saved you?

Now, listen, I know when I share this with anybody, most people in the church do not know how to share the gospel.

Here's what I wanna encourage you.

Sign up for Gospel Fluency today.

If you have never shared Jesus with anyone, even your spouse, right?

Even your GC, that never has came out of your mouth.

I know it's weird, it's awkward, because you don't do it all the time, right?

But the more you do it, the more you become familiar with it, it is good.

It is good that you know how to share how God has saved you from the pit of hell.

It is good that other people will know your story and how Jesus has saved you.

They need to hear from you.

Not everyone's like, wow, Jeff's so cool, I better go to Heartland.

That is not happening.

Okay, but your friends care about you and they would love to hear from you about what God is doing inside of you.

And there may be moments and times, and I will ask you, don't just share the gospel, but show the gospel.

I'm not saying be perfect.

One of the best ways you can show off the gospel is actually being humble in the workplace and say that you're wrong.

Another way is actually to speak up for what is right and to stand for what is right, even if it costs you your job.

That speaks the gospel way more than you actually even preaching it in your workplace, which most of you can't, right?

Because you'll get fired.

And that's a cost that we would have to count.

If there's someone honestly in your heart that as weekend and week out happens, I would encourage you to ask a coworker, maybe out for dinner or out for coffee and to share with them.

Like I think it's that important because there may be a Paul there, there may be an Anthony there, there may be someone there that just needs to know and the spirit is speaking to his people and he is gathering a family together and he's using you and I to do that.

So through forgiveness and generosity and hospitality and love and holiness and justice and grace, this fits together in what the Lord has called us to do.

We're called to baptize.

Yes and amen?

Like that baptism tank should be filled.

Why?

Because people are coming to know Jesus.

That if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord, that means you're saved.

And it should be demonstrated through baptism.

Jesus is Lord indeed.

And these are his people.

And we are to follow him.

And we are also to teach obedience.

Some of you have been going to this church for a very long time.

You were here before it was even called Heartland.

You've been here for all the names.

And you have yet to teach a class.

I think you need to step up and teach a class.

If you've been in this church,

for longer than six months, and you've yet to step up and serve and maybe teach a class, I wanna encourage you.

Why do I encourage you?

One, this is one of the best ways for you to learn and grow.

Listen, obviously we gotta go through approval here.

I am not the ministry coordinator here.

But if everyone was able to teach these middle school students,

if everyone was able to teach these middle school students and just share with them the heart, and you're thinking, oh, they don't care about me.

I'm too old.

I'm too whatever.

I'm too this.

You got it wrong.

That's the devil whispering in your ear of all types of insecurities.

Listen, Austin already said it.

They love coming and learning from y'all.

They love it.

Your teens already love it.

I'm just wondering, will you step up to participate to speak into their life?

Because we got to teach obedience.

We got to learn from Jesus.

We got to follow Jesus.

We got to obey Jesus.

We also have to share Jesus.

Yes and amen.

And so healthy disciples multiply.

Healthy gospel communities multiply.

Healthy leaders multiply.

Healthy churches multiply.

Because the mission of God is not a spectator sport.

You weren't saved to sit on the bench.

You were saved for mission.

Jesus saves us into his family and sends us together on his mission.

So on three, we're all going to say, I am made for mission.

Look at neighbor, find a neighbor though.

You got to look at a neighbor and say this, find a neighbor, any neighbor, give you time to find a neighbor.

On three, one, two, three, I am made for mission.

You guys did so good.

You still hanging with me?

You still good?

Point number three.

Here we go.

If I'm going over, someone just tell me to wrap this thing up.

Okay.

All right.

Yes, ma'am.

Yes, ma'am.

I felt that.

I felt that.

Point number three.

You are not alone.

Matthew chapter 28 and then verse 20 at that very end, like this is so much is in the statement.

We just had to make it a point.

And remember, everyone say remember.

Everyone say remember.

Everyone say remember.

And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

That means when you're dead or Jesus returns, he will always be with you, whether you feel it or you don't.

My girls right now, they get a little scared at night.

And for some reason, they're just kind of like, they're kind of at that age where you can kind of like, you can leave them for a little bit.

Like my oldest is in that teenage stage, you know.

But there's moments sometimes where she's like, oh, can I come with you?

Because I'm like, do you want to stay home or do you want to come with me?

Like, oh, can I come with you?

I don't know if I feel safe alone.

I'm like, oh, you don't feel safe in the house?

Like, why don't you feel safe in the house?

And she's not really remembering that.

Who's actually with her?

It's not, she thinks it's really daddy's protecting her.

It's not daddy's that's protecting her.

It's the Lord that's actually protecting her.

But for you and I, we forget this sometimes, don't we?

We forget that the Lord is actually with us.

This is beautiful.

Jesus begins, all authority belongs to me.

Then he ends with, I am with you always.

So the one who has all authority will always be with you.

Just let that sink in for a little bit.

Like the one who has authority, like we're talking about the God that spoke the world into existence.

Like all atoms and molecules had to obey at his very word.

Like everything was created through his words alone.

Like galaxies were formed because he spoke.

Like the earth was put on his proper axis because he spoke.

Like demons came out of people because he spoke.

Like people were healed because he spoke.

And he says,

I am with you always, even into the end of the age.

So there should be a level of confidence.

Again, he has all authority and he is with me.

So this is the great commission.

His authority is behind you.

But guess what?

Guess what?

His presence is with us.

So Jesus doesn't send his people into a world alone.

He promises, I am with you always.

That's why mission isn't ultimately about your personality.

You might say, well, Paul, I can see you going back and forth on the stage.

Really?

Good, good sermon.

But I'm an introvert.

He's with you.

I don't know what to say.

He's with you.

I'm afraid to get rejected.

He's with you.

I don't know enough Bible.

He's with you.

I've never done this before.

He's with you.

And this is my first time at Heartland.

He's with you.

Right, right, right.

Remain in Jesus.

We don't graduate from dependence upon Jesus.

The mission begins with Jesus.

The mission is accomplished through Jesus.

And Jesus promises to remain with us until the mission is complete.

And so guess what, Harlan?

I don't know if you've noticed, but not everyone follows Jesus.

And so even in this church, not everyone obeys Jesus.

And so there is still a mission at hand and we will go and we will go knowing that he is with us in every moment.

Listen, I know for some of you, you're like, Paul, my life is so boring sometimes.

Like how is God actually using that?

I wanna remind you the same God that also wrote the book of Exodus is the same God that wrote the book of Ruth.

And he used a woman, a Moabite woman,

Really subtle, everyday life to what?

Be part of the lineage of Jesus Christ?

Are you kidding me?

So what does it look like for you simply just to do what God has called you to do in your everyday life to trust him?

You have forgotten that he's with you every step of the way.

Listen, when you sin, he is still with you.

Now, is that the way you should live?

Absolutely not.

Don't forsake the grace of God.

Repent, ask for forgiveness, walk the way that you're called to walk, but he has not left you.

well, my spouse left me and I'm not married anymore or I'm a widow now.

He has not left you.

Well, my job is not, they left me and they replaced me.

He is still with you.

Your identity is not fixed on these things that are here, that will come and go, that will all fade away.

No, your hope is built on Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone.

I want you to remember, he's always with you.

So maybe the issue isn't God use me.

Maybe the question is, are you available?

Are you available, church?

This is so for me too, because I stack my calendar.

Like I got hour blocks.

My wife is like, so where's family time in there?

Oh, facts.

I'm like, because I'm thinking, oh, it'll just come naturally.

So I don't need to put it in the calendar.

It'll just come naturally.

We'll just hang out.

Like, we're always here.

But she's calling me out.

She's like, whoa, we put things in our calendar.

That's priority, right?

Like, ooh, girl, why you hurting me so hard?

Why you hurting me?

Right?

And so I've been convicted.

What does it look like to have margin in my life to make room for maybe someone else?

Maybe for a little hiccup?

Maybe for a flat tire?

The, you know, the little Firestone guy comes by and fixes, or the, you know, insurance guy comes by and fixes my tire.

I don't know.

Like, maybe I'm inconvenienced at Walmart by a lady that can barely grab a can.

Like, maybe I'm inconvenienced by my kids because maybe there's an intentional moment I can have with them.

Maybe I'm just inconvenienced for maybe a providential moment that the Lord may have me in.

So what does it look like to be present and available for what the Lord may have for us?

Because the same spirit who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you.

The spirit has sent us and we are his witnesses.

So here, let's make it practical for my note takers.

Practical.

Here we go.

I want you to pick three friends.

They can be believers.

They could be unbelievers.

They can be growing in their faith.

I want you to pick three people, right?

And this is what I want you to do.

I want you to pray for them daily.

Dang, Paul, every day, every day, I want you to pray for these three people for the rest of the year.

Pray for them daily.

Two, pursue a real relationship with them.

like intentionality, like talk about what's already in your world right now.

I'm not saying pick three random other people that aren't there.

I'm saying, what does it look like for Heartland to have three intentional people that they're praying for daily and that they're pursuing a real relationship with?

And they're sharing Jesus with them.

You're actually sharing Jesus.

You're talking about Jesus.

And then you're inviting them into your life.

And then bring them into your community.

Like what would it look like for Heartland to pick three people to one, pray for them daily, two, pursue a real relationship, three, to share Jesus with them, four, invite them into your life, and five, to bring them into your community.

Like if we kept that up until Jesus returned, you will hear, well done, good and faithful servant.

But maybe that means, you know, inviting them into your gospel community, not simply come to my church event.

Because again, I'm just speaking from my point of view.

My culture and my area, no one cares about your church and no one cares about your church event.

Everyone's got them.

But what they do care about is you as an individual.

So what does it look like for you to personally invite them?

No, I'm not saying don't invite someone to Christmas or Easter.

Please do so.

What I'm trying to say is a church event can be so intimidating, but you invite them into a GC and we're having a meal together.

That's a little different temperature than come to a church event.

Now you can tell them, hey, this is my church community, but I want to invite you into that.

Like that does way more than you think it does.

Why?

Because we're coming and we're eating together and we're meeting as a family and we're meeting as friends and we're talking about Jesus.

Why is that important?

Because we live in a culture that is alone.

We are so connected and yet we're so alone.

And we're alone for multiple different reasons.

We don't want people to see our sin because we portray ourselves online.

We want people to see the online version of us, right?

There's that part.

The other part is people just simply just aren't connected with other people anymore.

We have all these ways to connect and all these social events, but most of Americans are lonely.

Do you know one of the primary reasons why most people kill themselves is because they've lost their purpose and they're alone?

That actually the highest suicide rate right now is grown men in their forties because we're alone.

because you have this built-in pressure that we're not good enough and we have all these things and, you know, guys are just guys.

No, guys need connection too.

Ladies, you're so good at it.

This is why you live longer than us.

It's like, you like talk, you walk, right?

Like men, like you are built for mission and your mission is to make much of Jesus.

And that might mean you need to eat some broccoli and you need to connect with another man.

That's your mission.

Oh, how's broccoli and talking to another man helped me.

One, you need some more fiber in your life.

Two, you need to make disciples and you can't make disciples by looking at a wall.

You make disciples by being face-to-face with somebody else, okay?

So I need you men to step up in this church and be face-to-face and open.

Because a bunch of y'all are struggling with a bunch of stuff that we're all struggling with the same thing, but we're pretending like it doesn't exist.

That is from the enemy of hell itself.

Why?

Because he wants a bunch of men isolated so they can kill themselves.

Not a heartland.

We're going to be a bunch of men that see each other, that speak gospel life into each other, that uplift each other.

You know how transformative that is in a community with a bunch of, and listen, I love you ladies, but if men would actually step up and do what they're called to do, it changes a nation.

A nation is changed.

So men, the call is step up.

You have, I know you might be retired.

I know you might feel like you're setting your sails down and you're going, you're gonna go meet the Lord.

It ain't over.

Why?

Because you still got breath in your lungs.

So remain in Jesus.

Connect as a family.

Share the gospel.

Why?

Because Jesus saves us into his family.

He sends us together on mission.

But don't,

Don't leave here thinking, I need to try harder to be a missionary.

No.

Look to Jesus.

Jesus is the true missionary.

He was sent by the Father.

He left heaven and entered into our brokenness.

He came near.

He lived among us.

He loved sinners.

He touched the unclean.

He welcomed the outsider.

He lived perfectly.

He died sacrificially and he rose victoriously.

Before Jesus ever said go, Jesus came.

Before you ever were pursued by God, God pursued, sorry, excuse me.

Before Jesus ever came, God was pursuing you.

Before you ever shared the gospel, someone shared it with you.

Before you ever loved Jesus, he loved you.

The mission doesn't begin with work for Jesus.

It begins with Jesus's finished work for us.

And now the one who came for us says, I am sending you.

What are you doing today?

You're about to go on mission after this sermon, okay?

What are you going to do on Monday?

You're about to go on mission.

And church, here's what you need to hear is one day the mission will be complete.

Revelation gives us this picture that every people and tribe, every tongue and people, every nation will be standing before the throne.

And Jesus will be the center of all worship.

He purchased by everyone with his own blood.

But we're not there yet.

There are still neighbors that don't know him.

There are still family members that don't know him.

There are still communities that don't know him.

So until Jesus returns, hear me, Heartland, we remain in him, we connect as a family, and we share the gospel.

We make disciples, we multiply communities, and we trust that King Jesus will indeed build his church.

If the band can come up, please.

And maybe you're here this morning and you're realizing I've never actually trusted Jesus.

Maybe you've been a cultural Christian.

I'm here to tell you Christianity isn't about becoming a better version of yourself.

That is not Christianity.

It's about being made new.

Jesus lived the life you couldn't live.

And he died the death that you and I deserve.

And he rose from the grave.

And today he calls you.

to turn from your sin and to trust in him.

Not to clean yourself up first, not to be religious first, not to come to a GC first, come to Jesus, receive his grace, receive his forgiveness, receive his new life and become part of the family.

Heartland, for you, I need you to pick those three people.

I need you to close your eyes at this moment and I need you to think about three people who you will probably connect with in the next coming year.

Holy Spirit, would you give us those three people that you've placed on our hearts?

Lord, would you give us the boldness to share your good news?

Lord, would you give us the boldness to invite people in to our space, Lord, that represents you.

Lord, would you give us boldness, Father God, to share Jesus with those people that are far from you and those that are close.

Father, I thank you for your mission.

I thank you for your call.

Lord, we love you and we praise you.

In Jesus' name, and everyone said, amen.