

## **Mission Impossible**

### **Multiply Churches**

Matthew 28:18-20

Last week, we looked at the first part of our mission: Make Disciples of Jesus Christ. Today, we will consider the second: Multiply Churches.

#### **Main Idea: Salem Church's Mission Is to Make Disciples & Multiply Churches**

*"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."* **Matthew 28:19-20a**

#### **I. The Focus of our Mission – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matthew 28:18**

The term "Go" actually implies *"as you are going"* telling us that this disciple-making mission is to be a part of our daily lives. It is not a program, a trip, a scheduled event, or a task to be completed.

*"Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word."* **Acts 8:4**

*"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry..."* **Ephesians 4:11-12a**

Jesus also said that our 'going' would involve all nations (*ethnos* – people groups). It implies that we should be cultivating relationships with people groups other than our own. Do we have diverse relationships with other races, ethnicities, economic classes, or political persuasions?

#### **II. The Necessities of Our Mission – "...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20a**

#### **Two Essential Components of Making Disciples:**

- **Baptism:**
  - **Community Integration** – Into the church family.
  - **Confessional Declaration** – Father, Son, & Spirit.
- **Teaching:**
  - **To Conform** – Not to be smarter...
  - **To Christ** – To be Christlike!

*"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock... And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."* **Matthew 7:24, 26**

**What is a Church?** The word (*ekklesia*) means *an assembly of called out ones*. It exists on two levels:

- 1) **The Universal Church** (all those throughout time, geography, and history who profess faith in the crucified, risen Lord)

2) **The Local Church** (members of the universal church assembling for the purpose of glorifying God and advancing his kingdom)

*"A vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers, and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ."* **Timothy Keller**

#### **Common Objections:**

- We already have plenty of churches
- The church attending public is shrinking
- Struggling churches need help; let's get better churches, not more.

#### **Why We Must Multiply Churches:**

- **Multiplying Churches Is the Biblical Model** (the Book of Acts)
- **Multiplying Churches Is True to the Great Commission** (5 times)
  - **New Churches Reach New Residents, People Groups, & Ages**
  - **New Churches Reach the Unchurched – Period!** – 60-80% of those who visit a new church (less than 10 years old) are coming from an unchurched background as opposed to 10-20% in a church older than 15 years.
  - **New Churches Pioneer New Ideas that Bless All Churches!**
  - **New Churches Raise Up New Leaders by Necessity!**
  - **New Churches Reach People and Send People on Mission!**
  - **Church Multiplication is about Kingdom-Mindedness!**

#### **How Salem Church is Multiplying Churches:**

- **Campus Multiplying** – Global hub of leadership, sharing resources, reproducing systems, crafting strategies. **(Salem Church Graphic)**
- **Church Planting** – Sending out and supporting church planters to start unique churches locally and globally. (Follow Church, SIABC)
- **Strategic Partnering** – Hosting, supporting, facilitating, and strategizing with churches/organizations (SEND, EFCA, SICBC)

Jesus Christ was sent on the greatest mission the universe has ever known. He was sent from heaven to rescue you and me from our sin by reconciling us to our heavenly Father through his death on the cross.

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* **Luke 19:10**

**If you are not yet a disciple of Jesus Christ, you ARE the mission. If you are a disciple of Jesus, you ARE ON mission!**

#### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)
- *Bible Knowledge Commentary* – J.F. Walvoord & R.B. Zook (1985)
- *Faithlife Study Bible* – J.D. Barry (2012)
- *CSB Study Bible* – Editor Trevin Wax (2017)
- *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible* – Richard J. Erickson (1995)
- *Gaining By Losing* – JD Greear (2015)
- *Why Plant Churches* – Timothy Keller (2002)

