

TEST-imony

The Mission Has a Church

SUMMER SERIES: WHEN GOD SHOWED UP!

TEST: (dictionary.com)

1. The means by which the presence, quality, or genuineness of anything is determined; a means of trial.
2. the trial of the quality of something; *to put to the test*.
3. a particular process or method for trying or assessing.

Simple message that we're **all included** in the mission of God

Spurgeon: "It is the whole business of the whole church to preach the whole gospel to the whole world."

The church is sent on mission by Jesus!!

It's not that the church has a mission, but rather that **the mission has a church**

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)- "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

"Nations" = "peoples"

Only 12% of US Christians can tell you what the Great Commission is¹
Plan of God

The Great Commission **didn't originate** with Mt 28:19

It originated in **creation** and the plan of Jesus!!

¹ Barna

Rev 13:8 “The Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”

Sacrifice from the beginning was worth it

God has always been a sending God

- God sent **Abraham** to be father of a nation (Gen 12:1-3)
- God sent **Joseph** ahead to Egypt to save lives (Gen 45:5)
- God sent **Moses** to deliver his people (Ex 3:10)
- God sent **David** to kill a giant (1 Sam 17:45-47)
- God sent **Esther** to preserve his people (Est 4:14)
- God sent **Prophets** to call people back to himself (Jer 7:25)
- God sent **John the Baptist** to prepare the way (Jn 1:6-7)
- And in fullness of time...**God sent his Son** to redeem the world

Gal 4:4-5 (NIV): “But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.”

Now that is Good News!

70% of Xians are unaware there are still people who’ve never heard the gospel of Jesus²

John 20:21-22 (NIV) - “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Jesus identifies Himself as being **sent** more than **forty** times in the gospel of John

Then he sends the disciples out...not pros but “**unschooled fisherman**”

Such are we!

² Barna, 2018

What is the Mission of Jesus?

Acts 1:8 - “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

In heaven all nations will be worshipping the same Jesus

HERE, NEAR, and FAR we are called to be his witnesses

Always been the mission (OT)

- **Gen 12:18** - “And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”
- **Ex 9:16** - “But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”
- **Jos 4:24** - “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know.”
- **Ps 48:10** - “Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.”

The Gospel is for YOU and for the WORLD

Missions – Taking the Good News of Jesus to every **tribe, nation, tongue**
Why: **Glory and Honor of Jesus!!!**

What is the Reality of our World?

The State of the World

- 8 billion people live in the world
- 3.3 billion are considered unreached (42%)
- Church in America: Most resources **stay within the four walls**

Paul Harvey: “We’ve drifted away from being fishers of men to being keepers of the aquarium.”

Morocco

Overlook city of 1 million...maybe **80** believers

Who will tell them?

France: 1 in every 100

Avg person has no **family, neighbors, or colleagues** that follows Jesus

With our **eyes**, we see **lost people** all around us , but the promise of Revelation is that we will **see** the **glory** of **Jesus** among all peoples

Jars of Beads

U.S. **1 in 4** follow Jesus

France: **1 in 100** follow Jesus

Revelation 7:9 (NIV) - “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’”

There are more in France and Morocco and **Sartell** who Jesus is inviting to worship at his throne!

Barna Study (2021)

85% of pastors see **missions** as a **mandate** for all Christians

Only 25% of **Christians** see it as a mandate for all

Romans 10:14-15 - “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

For much of the world, the Good News is still news!!!

What is My Role in this Mission?

Takes the whole church to reach whole world

1 Cor 3:6-7 (NIV) - "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."

Sometimes you **plant** and sometimes you **water**

Building up the church is the key work of every Christian

Matt 24:14 (NIV) - "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

This Earth is not our home, The Kingdom is

We must keep an eye toward our home

Nothing from this world can save this world...not **money**, **recognition**, or even **family**... *His kingdom come, His will be done*

How do we see this kingdom realized?

When you were saved by the grace of Jesus...

You already gave him your unqualified YES

This means we obey his Word and his Spirit...whatever the cost

All will Pray

Luke 10:2 (NIV) - "He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Gospel has always been designed to be shared by **flesh and blood messengers**. We are to pray that God would continue to raise them up and send them out

Do you **really believe** prayer can **move the hand** of God?

Some will Go

India at Ganges River...

Have you heard the good news of Jesus? Who is that?

Unqualified YES to Jesus

You've already said **YES** to what he's asking you to do

Who will tell those that don't know?

Many will Send

Household inc. of \$40k means top 20% globally for wealth (includes COL)³

U.S. Christians make up only 5% of the church worldwide yet control approx 50% of Global Christian Wealth.⁴

John Stott: "His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice."

Holding the Rope: When a child falls in a well, who is more important in saving this lost child? The one who goes into the well or the one who holds the rope?

Marty: For those of us who go, we just want to feel tension on the line

³ <https://www.givingwhatwecan.org/how-rich-am-i>

⁴ <https://oneheart.global/blog/2023/9/25/3sho0ty910h0nk5utjq25k31838h>

Do I **really believe** that Jesus is the **way, truth, and life**?

A church like this is not too small to make a difference

To plant and water the church both be near and far
That's the way Jesus designed his church!!

John 20:21-22 (NIV) - “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

The following appearance

Appeared to his disciples and **fished** with them
Reinstates Peter

Asks, **“What about him?”**

John 21:22 (NIV) - “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me!”

You must follow him in your own calling

What is Jesus asking you to step out into?

Two types of People

If Jesus really is the way, truth and life, there are people who are Lost and people who are Found

- **Found**

- Needs to be discipled
- To be in community with other believers
- To daily pick up their cross and follow Jesus

- **Lost**
 - Needs a witness to share
 - Evangelist - **near** culture
 - Missionary - **cross** a culture

The Church has a Mission

- **Other Verses**
 - Gen 12:1-3, Gal 3:8
 - Matthew 9:7
 - Matthew 24:14
 - Isaiah 49:6
 - Psalm 67