

## Westside Fellowship Sermon Transcript

**Title: Go Therefore and make disciples**

**Series: 50 Days that Changed the World, pt 5**

**Date: May 3, 2026**

**Text: Matt 28:18-20**

**Speaker: Pastor Kyle Smith**

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It's so good to be with you guys this morning. Hey, before we get into our sermon this morning, I want to just celebrate something. So this week, we had a group, a life group one of the young pro life groups led by Caleb, Madeline, Kennedy.

They went out and served at PAYC. That's one of the organizations that we partner with here in the community. They serve the youth of our community. And man, that group jumped in. And there's some pictures showing a little bit of what they were doing. But they were jumping in and serving this organization to to help them and support them as they pour into youth in our community.

So we just pra- Can we just praise God for that? Man, it's so cool to see our life groups jumping in and serving. One of our values here is missional living. And so any way that our church jumps in and serves the community, serves one another, man, we just wanna celebrate that. You guys are so eager to jump in.

I've seen that over the ... I must've been here a year now, and just watching this church just pour in and give and serve is so encouraging. And so I just wanted to take a minute to celebrate that. Man, it's so cool. But today, we're gonna be continuing in our 50 Days That Changed the World sermon series, and we are gonna be jumping into Matthew this morning.

In this series, we've been looking at the things that Jesus did and said after His resurrection, after He w- He was made alive, and the work that He was doing. And also, we're gonna be continuing to look at, man, how the disciples continued that work as the Spirit is poured out and the church is launched.

The movement that we still are a part of today, a spirit-empowered people who are going into the world to make Christ known. And what we're looking at today is probably one of the most well-known passages coming out of Jesus' final days here on Earth. And, I think we need to understand something that just because

something is well-known doesn't mean it's well-lived.

And that kind of ... That may sting a little bit, but it sadly is true. Too often we know way more about God and what He's called us to than we're willing to actually live and participate in. And as I've studied this passage this week, it's been a gut check for me, but it's also renewed my love for Jesus and really the mission that He's called us to.

And so I really pray that it does that for you today. So let's jump in. Matthew 28:16-20. This is what it says. "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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age.'" Let's pray. Father, you are good, and we thank you for your Word this morning.

And Lord, as we come together, Lord, to just be reminded that you are God, you have all authority and power, Lord, may we humble ourselves and submit to your Word as your Spirit works in us, convicts us of our sin, Lord, encourages us with the truth of who we are and who you are. And Lord, may you turn our hearts to you today.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen. I saw a story this week it was about a lighthouse that was built in the 1800s. And this lighthouse was on the coast of Wales. It was positioned and ready to start welcoming ships in to, to hopefully lead them in safely to the harbor. But a couple years went by and there had been many wrecks happening throughout that that, that harbor and that area there.

And they were trying to figure out, what's going on? We have this lighthouse set up. Why are ships not safely making it into the harbor? An investigator went out, checked it out, and discovered a problem. The lighthouse had been had been working correctly. It had been functioning. The light was on.

But the problem was the lighthouse had been constructed facing the wrong stretch of water. The lighthouse was working good, but it doesn't do a lot of good

if it's aimed in the wrong direction. And I think, as we're coming to this passage today, a very foundational passage for us as believers and for the church, we need to take an assessment of ourselves and really the American church, 'cause we can't be accused of a lack of activity.

Anytime I ask somebody how they're doing, it's "I'm busy. I'm busy." That's like the number one answer now. Not even good anymore. You're just busy. You're not even good. I don't ... And so we can't really be accused of that. We are busy. Our lives are full of all kinds of things, most of them pretty good things.

But the temptation for us is to believe that activity equals transformation, or in the case of this passage today, that lots of ministry equals disciple making. That's a myth that we need to debunk this morning, 'cause I believe we have great intentions in the church, but what we see in this passage today should draw us back to the foundational purpose of our lives, which is to make disciples of all nations.

Today, take a moment just to do an assessment of your life. This is not a beat you down over the head kind of thing, but it's a time to just come in and be honest with ourselves and look at our lives. Are we tired and worn out? Are we busy? Run ragged? Is all that equaling in making disciples of all the nations or not?

Let's take a chance to look, because the lighthouse, we could be on and functioning, but is what we are doing aimed in the right direction, at the right goal? Is the way that we spend our time and our resources aimed at making disciples of all nations? This is the question we need to wrestle with this morning.

We have one life to live. So let's make it count. Let's make it a life lived for the purpose that, of which we are here, the purpose of which we are saved. And so this is our big idea today. Every believer is part of God's global mission. So as a follower of Christ this is not really something we get to opt in or out of, like some kind of insurance thing.

You get to opt in, out of dental or vision, this is not one of those things we get to opt in and out of. This is part of our life. This is part of who we are. When we said yes to following Christ, we signed up for a global mission of reaching the nations with the gospel, okay? And so we're gonna walk through this passage, see how our

lives really fit into it.

What is God doing right now in our lives that is leading us to be able to live on mission in this way? So over the last few weeks, we've looked at Jesus appearing to his disciples in Jerusalem, and then last week they were in Galilee, which is where Jesus had instructed to, them to meet him. In verse seven of Matthew 28, it tells us this.

It says, "Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead." He's speaking to the women here. "And behold, he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him. See, I have told you." And you may ask yourselves as you read this, why is it so important that Jesus meet with them in Galilee?

And that's a good question. Now, there isn't a ton of information in the Gospel accounts that gives us a direct kind of answer here, but there's a few things to consider. It's some very practical things. Galilee was where Jesus spent a lot of his ministry. A lot of his time doing ministry on Earth was in Galilee.

His a- his disciples also were from parts of Galilee. And so they had been in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, and naturally they would go back home after that, and that's where Jesus was gonna meet with them. But there's one other interesting fact that makes this even a little bit more significant.

Jesus doesn't do anything just off, off the top. He doesn't do anything just flying by the seat of his pants. He's very intentional And the fact is that Galilee was associated with Gentiles. This region was surrounded by non-Jewish kind of peoples, okay? This was a very diverse culturally spot here.

And so the point that to the point that Jews in the Judean region was the south of Galilee, they would pick on, make fun of. They thought of the Galilean Jews as impure all the time. They would mock them even for their accent. Sounds like North and South today a little bit.

We get on each other. So this is a wonderful place for Jesus to tell his disciples, "Go make disciples of all nations." The new covenant ministry was not limited to Jews, but would expand to people from every tribe and tongue. To Jews, Jerusalem would have been a more important area since the temple was there.

That's the place where they would worship. That's the place they had just ... Most of them had just come from there, doing that very thing. But Jesus chose Galilee to give his final marching orders to his disciples. This is an extremely significant moment, and Jesus w- is wanting his followers to understand that something new is happening.

He's alive, and he's defeated death, hell, and the grave. It is finished. The wrath of God has been poured out on him for our sin. He has made redemption for his people and reconciled h- sinful humans to a heavenly holy Father. And now God with us, Emmanuel, is going to send them on a mission So no longer is the world going to have to come to Jerusalem to see the temple and worship God there.

Now, people who would be filled with God's Spirit are going to take that good news all over the world and spread it to the ends of the earth. So as Jesus meets with his disciples on a mountain in Galilee, he welcomes them into the greatest mission the world has ever seen, and we need to really try to get ourselves into this scene, really try to get ourselves into what is going on here.

Sometimes we may look at this passage and see the disciples as coming in, and they're like, "Yeah, we're gung-ho, ready to go, ready to do what the Lord wants us to do." And to some degree, there probably were s- were several that were in that way. But Jesus had been crucified and laid in a tomb.

His disciples had seen this happen, and they all scattered for fear of what might happen to them. But Jesus rose from the grave and began appearing to them, restoring their hope that Jesus really was the Christ, the Savior that they had been longing for. And now, this ragtag group of disciples that were coming with maybe some excitement, some fear, it even says that some were doubting, this ragtag group that had no influence in the world, no fame, no riches, and a lot of dysfunction, were gathering together around Jesus, the one hope that they have for anything in life, to hear him give his final instruction before he ascends to Heaven And I hope you're encouraged when it says that some of them doubted, because some of them were literally looking at the risen Christ, knowing that he had died, knowing that he'd been buried, and now seeing him risen again, and were still doubting.

And maybe that's you in here today. Maybe you've been around church for a while. Maybe you're brand new to church today, and you're coming in. You have

lots of doubts. You have lots of questions. Man, can I really put my whole life and my trust and everything that I have on the fact that there was a man who came, claimed to be God, did pretty cool things, did some amazing miracles, died at the hands of Romans, was buried, and then rose again?

Can I stake my whole life on that? And if you're here asking that question today, good. Man, wrestle with that question. We are glad that you are here

Because that is the very question that we have in this life, it, to, to answer. Will we stake our lives on the risen Christ? Will we stake our eternity on the fact that Jesus is alive And a little side note here, it talks about how some came and worshiped, and then some were doubting. This passage alludes to that the 11 had come.

It doesn't really say any more were there or not. But it does make me believe that there were probably more there than just the 11 that day, because Jesus had visited the 11 disciples several times. They had got a chance to work through their doubts, as we saw a couple weeks back with Thomas.

And in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul says that Jesus appeared to over 500 people at one time. So this may have been that moment. This may have been that moment where then the disciples had went out, they had invited people to come, "Man, we're gonna see Jesus." But whether it's just the 11 or whether it was more, the mission is still the same And church, Jesus chose a seemingly insignificant place with a seemingly insignificant group of people to declare his amazing global mission.

And just like the group of disciples, we are gathered today to receive that same mission. It wasn't just for those guys. They were meant to pass it on. That was the whole point of making disciples. You teach everything that I des- observe That was the point And listen, you are part of God's plan to reach the world with the good news of the gospel.

The world, not just your neighborhood. Man, praise God. It- that's-- We're gonna talk a lot about that today, okay? So just hang on But the world. It is amazing to think that Jesus would put the hope of something so important to the hands of people who had little influence in the world. Jesus, you're staking your whole

ministry plan here and your whole mission on this group of disciples?

Some of them are doubting you. How are you gonna give them a mission and expect them to be able to complete it? But that's how Jesus works. It takes the focus off of us broken people and puts it on who he is. The mission, this mission would succeed because he was gonna be the power behind it. He wasn't relying on them to do it on their own, and we praise God for that.

Look at verse 18. Jesus said, He came to them and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." So the group of disciples that day may have been pretty unimpressive, but they were being sent out by the one who had the very thing that they needed in the world to, to complete this mission and to reach it with the gospel.

Jesus was alive, and he had all authority. This mission was going to be powered by the one who would not be limited by earthly powers, any borders, any languages, any cultures, any corrupt politicians. Jesus Was gonna help them complete the mission, because he had complete and total authority to carry out the mission that he had given to the disciples.

Jesus has this thing rigged, okay? He's not just "Man, I hope this thing works." He's "No, I conquered death and defeated it. Hell and the grave, there is no stopping what I have started, even if it looks like the most random group of guys you could have ever put together." The worst team, mission team, we would have never sent that mission team out of Westside to go anywhere, okay?

We would have been like, "Y'all gotta stay here. We gotta work on y'all a little bit, okay?"

But that's how Jesus works. Man, he empowers those who have nothing to offer. Broken vessels. We're trea- we have treasures as in broken vessels, Paul talks about. So this also answers some questions for us today. Who gets to decide your purpose, and who gets to decide how you live?

I think Jesus answers those questions here, and any like it, when he says that all authority has been given to him in heaven and on Earth. You know what he's saying? He's saying, "I am the king. All of this that you see around you, I'm the king of it now. I have conquered it. I have bought it. I have redeemed it from the

broken state of sin that it was in.

I have redeemed it, and I am the king." And church, King Jesus is inviting you and me into a global mission that will bring glory to God and salvation to people of every tribe, every tongue, every nation. Man, that's an incredible thing, guys. That should ... We should be getting pumped up right now. We should be ready to take the water pistols, storm the gates of hell, and let's go knock it out

And that really is a mission that is worth our life. It's worthy of you giving your entire life to. Not part of your life, not opting into things that are interesting or that are comfortable. This mission and the one who is in charge of it demand your entire life. Otherwise, this whole thing of trust doesn't really work.

Does that make sense? If you say that you're coming in here and you trust the chair, but you're sitting like this, and the chair's st- I would say you probably don't trust the chair. If you're having to use your legs and you're not really sit- if you're not all the way in, do you really trust it? And that's the way it is with Jesus.

If we say we trust Him, man, do we s- are we willing to step in and say, "Sign me up, Jesus. Send me to the world. I wanna tell people about you"?

So from that day until now, Jesus has called ordinary people to follow Him and change the world. And we see this really laid out in the Book of Acts. Acts shows us the outline of how Jesus' disciples would carry out this amazing mission. And what is so encouraging is that as you read these accounts in Acts, that Jesus is using everyday people to fulfill His mission.

We may think that Paul or Peter or some other guys that we would consider super Christians were the ones doing all the work, but Acts tells us a different story. This is not a p- a mission that's powered by human strength I'm gonna look at a few ve- We're gonna track through a few of these so hang in here.

Acts 1:8, look what it says. It says, "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 ends of the earth." We will look at more of this in the co- in the coming weeks, but this supernatural mission powered by

This is a supernatural mission powered by God's Spirit. This is why people like you and me can have confidence that not only are we saved, but we will carry out the work that God has for us, right? That's the hope that we have. He said, "Go do this, but I'm gonna empower you with my Spirit to be able to do it, and you will be my witness."

Jesus doesn't say, you might be, hopefully you make it. He says, "You will be my witnesses. If you have my Spirit inside of you, you will go, and you will be my witnesses." Look at Acts 8. Says this: "And Saul approved of his execution," talking about Stephen, "and there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

Okay, we saw Judea and Samaria in that last verse, didn't we? That's where they were gonna go. Oh, look at how it's happening. "Devout men buried Stephen and made a great lamentation over him, but Saul was ravaging the church and entering house after house. He dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the Word." Man, they were taking persecution and still obeying the mission to go and make disciples. If there was ever a time for them to stop following Jesus and worry about self-preservation or their accounts, that was it. But these ordinary Christians faced persecution, and they continued to spread the gospel.

It was like whatever Satan could throw at the Church, Jesus would just use that to be like, "Oh, yeah, that was the mission the whole time. Let's just use this act of evil to then spread the gospel more. And that's what we saw. We saw people empowered by His Spirit being witnesses wherever the Lord led them.

Look at Acts 11:19-21. "Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen," we just saw that, "traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord." All right, we saw the persecution. It was spreading the

Church, and they end up in different regions like Asia Minor. They start spreading out all over the world, places over the Mediterranean, spreading the Gospel and even starting a church.

One of the most influential churches in history or kind of during that time was in Antioch, and guys, we don't even know who started that church. It wasn't Paul. It wasn't Peter. We don't really know. There was no-- It just says some guys showed up. They started a church, shared the Gospel. Man, how great is that?

Ordinary people like you and me going and fulfilling the Great Commission, and God using it to spread His glory all over the world. These were faithful followers taking seriously the command of Jesus to go and make disciples. Look at Acts 19 There were about 12 men in all, and he entered the synagogue, and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the Kingdom of God.

But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

So Paul, who we saw earlier persecuting the church, now been converted as a believer and following Christ, took seriously this mission. He's ministering here in Ephesus, and for about three years they spend time here doing that, and listen to what it says. It says, "All the residents of Asia heard the word, the gospel."

How is it possible? It wasn't because Paul was that fast, okay? They didn't really have great means of transportation that were as quick as we have today. They didn't have cell phones, they didn't have all that stuff. It was because ordinary Christians took the gospel and spread it all over that place.

They took what they had been given and said, "You know what? The world needs to hear this news, and I'm gonna go and spread it." Last one. Look at Romans 16. This is a huge list of names, so it-- I'll probably mess them up, but I just wanna make a point here. It-- Paul's writing here. He says, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow servant, follower, workers in Christ, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as

well.

Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. Greet Mary, who worked hard for you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well-known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and our f- and our-- and my beloved Stachys. Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. Greet my kinsman Herodian. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus." Unfortunate name. "Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa.

Greet the beloved Persis, who's worked hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord. Also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them."

Why do I bring up that list of names? Man, we don't really know much about any of these people. But Paul is saying, "Hey, these are the guys who are working alongside of me." People like you and me that have jobs, families, lives. People that Spent their life doing whatever it was that God had given them to do with the mission of going and making disciples among all the nations.

Jesus was powerfully working through people like you and me to carry out the mission of making disciples of all nations. Listen, if you're waiting on us as pastors or any other pastor or a missionary to fulfill this Great Commission, then you're gonna be, you're gonna be missing it. You're gonna be wasting your time.

Because it is not those who are called into vocational ministry who are the ones carrying the burden of fulfilling this mission. In fact, as a pastor, my role is to equip you for the work of the ministry. That's what Paul says in Ephesians 4, that Jesus gave the church pastors, shepherds, teachers, prophets, evangelists, to train up the saints to do the work of the ministry, to equip them.

This mission is not dependent on me or Jacob or Grant or any other pastor out there. It is a call for every believer. It is a purpose for your life. Are you ready to take that seriously today? Are you ready to look in and assess and say man, I've been doing some good things. I've been growing. I get to watch that as a pastor.

I get to see some cool things that God's doing in your life

But are we taking this seriously? This idea of going into all the world We need to stop saying, "How does God's plan fit into my life?" And start asking, "How does my life fit into God's global mission?" And I use the word global here on purpose, because we can easily get nearsighted and think that God's mission is limited to what he's doing right here in this church, or your family, or this community.

And yes, God is concerned about the ministry happening here. But what he is doing here is not just for here. Does that make sense? What he's doing in your family is not just for your family alone. It is for the sake of the nations. It is for the sake of his name being made known a- among all peoples, tribes, and tongues.

We are like a river, okay? We're not a pond. As Jesus brought things to us, we carry it to other people. We don't hoard it in there, and it gets all stagnant, and algae grows, and you gotta throw carp in there to keep it clean. We're a river. We take what God has given us, and we keep it moving. We keep it going.

Because when the gospel came to you, it was on its way to someone else, and God just wanted to use you to take it to that person

And we pray as Jesus modeled, your kingdom come and your will be done on earth, all the earth, as it is in heaven. This has been the plan the entire time. Think back to Genesis twelve. We just got through Genesis one through eleven about a month ago And there's a big shift here at Genesis 12 where we saw Jacob went through all the nations, the 70 nations, table of nations that had been divided amongst the earth.

And here in chapter 12, it says this in Genesis, "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. 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. 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." God called Abram out of the nations who had turned and rebelled against God, setting up idols and living in sin, to be a nation that was set apart. But listen, it was not just for the sake of Abram and the nation that he was going to found. It was for the sake of the world.

All people. Everybody say all people All right, let's look at Malachi 1:11. "For from the rising of the sun to its setting, my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name and a pure offering for my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of Hosts.

Malachi, a prophet sent to God's people to re- to preach repentance to them, reminds them that there is a day coming when people from every nation, tribe, and tongue will worship the Lord. God will be great among all nations and every place. You guys say all places. All places. So we have all people, all places that God is concerned about, that he cares about.

And I could go through many more pa- passages. Psalm 67, 96, Habakkuk 2:14, Isaiah 49, and now again in Matthew 28. Paul does a great job of talking about this in Galatians as well. God's heart has always been, and still is, that people from every tribe and tongue and nation will worship him. So how is this going in the world today?

By our best estimation, out of the roughly eight billion people in the world, there's about 3.2 billion people that are considered unreached. So about a third of the people in the world are considered unreached. Two-thirds are considered reached. Now, what is the difference between those two things?

What does that mean? Someone who's unreached means that they do not have a good form of access to the gospel readily available to them. That means that they don't have a church that they can go to. They don't know a family member or a friend who even knows anyone else who could share the gospel with them.

That's what it means to be unreached, little to no access to the gospel. Obviously, a place like America is very reached. Lots of access, 45 churches on every corner. But there are many places in the world where they will walk for days and never be

able to even find someone who could share the gospel with them.

You're like Kyle, the internet, bud." "Won't that do it?" The problem is a lot of those places, especially that are listed in unreached people groups, have very censored internet access, and if you type in the word Jesus, what are you gonna get? Who knows what you're gonna get. You could get a number of things.

That doesn't mean you're gonna get the actual truth of the gospel about who Jesus is.

So there's lots of people, 3.2 billion, a third of the world, who do not have access. Many Muslim countries fall into this category of knowing about Jesus but not having the truth of Jesus. And for many of them, they will think that Jesus was maybe a good man, a prophet, and go their whole lives missing that Jesus came to die for them

They will never know that Jesus is fully God and fully human. They don't believe that he died on a cross and certainly don't believe that he died to save them from their sin And so I wanna take a look at this map. You guys can throw that up

It's a beautiful map. It's the water. It's like Google Maps, deep in the... It's not showing up? Okay. I guess we don't have the map. Anyway, so on the map, it shows a picture of the world, and you have the green zones, you have red zones, yellow zones. And if you look basically over Northern Africa into the Middle East, over India, Asia, that's what they call the 10/40 Window, okay?

This is called a red zone. Why they call it that? These are unreached peoples. These are the places where you could go and people would not have access to the gospel. No churches, no friends of friends that would know how to share the gospel with them And I think about 90% of that 3.2 billion people that are unreached live in that area, okay?

Massive area, massive amounts of people that live in that area

And that's the mission for us. How's it going in the world today? There's billions of people that don't have access, okay? As a church, man, that should, that should-- we should take the burden on a little bit and say, "Okay, what do we do?"

We're gonna talk about that a little bit more in a minute.

But you might think, you know Aren't missionaries in these places? Isn't there some access? And there are some missionaries, faithful people who have went out. But you're talking about a group of missionaries that's, that would be responsible for millions of people There's one missionary to like several million people, okay?

So the work, and the work is still to be done And not only that But out of every dollar given to international missions, that's not even just talking about just giving in general, the money that's given to international missions, only a-- less than a cent goes to the work that is happening in these red zones.

There's this great unbalance here. The places that need the most resource in the work are getting the least amount of help. It's like the idea if you saw s- people carrying a couch, nine people on one side, one person on the other, and they're trying to take it up some stairs. Who would you help?

You'd help that poor brother on the end that's by himself And that's the unbalance in the world that we live in right now Man, our communities are inundated with the gospel to the point that many people are almost inoculated But there's places, man, that are hungry for God.

People that want to, that's what really that kind of idea of Muslim really means is s- someone who's submitted to God. They want to know God. They wanna follow God. They've been blinded and deceived, though, to reject Jesus

Hinduism, Buddhism, all these things have been blinded to believe that they don't need God in the way that He came. They can go to God in the way that they want to go to Him And church, as and Jesus has come to die for our sin, to pay the price that we could not pay, and that is the only way that we a- as people separated from God can be saved.

Y'all, we have that mission. We have that message We need to take it to the world

One pastor says it like this, "Lostness in the world is not a missions problem. It's a discipleship problem." We are not taking this call to make disciples among the nations seriously, but this is our God-given, Spirit-empowered purpose. So what

do we need to do? Application today, we need to be disciples and make disciples

We need to be disciples. We need to be in the Word, following Jesus, observing all that He has commanded, and living it out in obedience

And then we also need to make disciples. We need to go with the people that we're around, the places that we live, the places that we work, the places that we are in community with others, and we need to find people and make disciples. Now, what is a disciple? A disciple is an apprentice. That's typ- that's what that word means.

It means apprentice. You can be a disciple of a lot of things, but specifically, we've been called to make people disciples of Jesus. Not of American philosophies, not of s- Southern culture. Disciples of Jesus. Be an apprentice of Jesus. Know what he says. Live out the way he has called us to live, and that happens when we take ownership of this mission, church.

Listen, write this down. If you got a Bible with you, I want you to take a pen out. You got a piece of paper, write this down, okay? We're gonna own the mission right now. I want you to write down this: It is my job to make disciples. You guys can go ahead and throw that up. It's up there on, as well. Write this down.

It is my job to make disciples. So how are we gonna do that? We're gonna pray. Step one. I love that when Jesus has spent three years with his disciples, teaching them, they've been watching him do incredible things. He's tell- he sends them out on this mission, the first thing he tells them to do is to go Jerusalem and wait until the Spirit comes.

They had been trained by Jesus, they had been disciplined by Jesus. They had everything they thought they needed except for one thing, and that was the Spirit of God. And that was the one thing that was gonna make a difference in their life. And for us, we need to pray. We need to take time to be still. And before we take any action, we need to s- ask the Lord, where are you wanting me to go?

What are you wanting me to do? Guys, we have a fellowship and prayer night coming up this week. I invite you to be there. You need to come pray together as a church for people that you're wanting to see saved, for people that need to be disciples for the nations. We pray together because that's where God works and

moves.

Also you should have the QR code up there, if you guys can put that up there. I invite you guys to ... Okay, it didn't show up as well either. Okay. You can go to that website. Okay, apparently pictures going into the the slide did not work today. But you can go to that website. It's just a, it's just a link to that website.

If you go to [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net). Listen, we do this with our kids all the time. At night, we'll pull it up, I have a app on my phone, and it goes to the unreached people group of the day. It tells us about this unreached people group, it tells us how to pray for this unreached people group, it tells us how many people are there, what religion they believe, blah, blah, blah, all that stuff.

But it's a great way for us to say, "Hey, I'm gonna keep my mind focused on the fact that there are people in this world who are living without the hope of the gospel, and I can pray for them. I may not be able to go right now, I'm putting kids to bed, but I can pray for them." And so I encourage you, [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net), get on there.

They'll show you the unreached people. There's a lot of other resources on there as well. It'll teach you about unreached people. You can learn about the nations. And so as you do that, I encourage you to pray for the nations. Because as this word is translated here in Matthew, nations, it actually is the word *ethne*, which means people groups.

So it's not geopolitical nations as we would think of them. In Nigeria, there's about 700 languages spoken in that country. Indonesia, about 400 languages and people groups in that country, and these people would see themselves, even if you don't see them as distinct people groups, they see themselves as distinct people groups.

That's what Jesus is talking about.

And so also we can send. Man, we can help others by giving to them. Man, we just had a incredible night celebrating what God's doing in Cambodia Village Outreach with Damson and Jen, people coming and giving and supporting a group of people who are over in a very unreached area sharing the gospel with

people.

It's a huge way to jump in is to give, and give to these specific places. Man, the IMB has plenty of resources for you to look on to know how I can support specific missionaries that are in India, in China, in Nepal, wherever. Okay? 'Cause like I talked about before, one out of every dollar given to international missions, they get less than a penny of that to the red zones.

Americans actually spend more on Halloween costumes for their pets than we do on missions giving in the red zone. That should make us cringe a little bit, guys. And this is our mission. This is our purpose. Let's get behind it. Thirdly, let's welcome the nations. This is a cool time in history, y'all, a cool time of, America has had immigration as part of its history for a long time. But if you don't have to go very far to find someone who has lived in a red zone before, or whose family did.

They're here. And no matter what you believe about politics, and borders, and immigration policy, man, I'm not talking about any of that. Our government has a job to do, and I pray they do it well. Pray for them as they do it, okay? But what I'm talking about is us as believers seeing the inundation of other countries coming to America with not a political American lens, but with a gospel lens and a kingdom mindset of saying, "Man, if these people are coming, I'm supposed to reach them with the gospel.

Where are they at? How can I find them? And how can I use the time that they have here to glorify the Lord, and maybe send them back over there where they don't have to learn the language and the culture, and they can engage their people with the gospel?" That takes some intentionality, guys. That takes some turning off the news and getting in the Word and saying, "Lord, show me.

Where can I go? Who can I reach?" They're here. I see them all the time. You get in an Uber. Man, I had a great conversation, me and Taylor were in Nashville a year ago, went to a wedding. In an Uber going back to our little house that night, sat in this man's car for three hours. He kept the car running the whole time.

I was like, "Bro, I didn't pay you enough to cover the gas. You just spent sitting here talking to me, okay?" But he wanted to talk he was of the Islamic faith. We engaged him in that, and for three hours that dude talked to us. And it was hard.

It was very uncomfortable, and I was tired, okay? It's 2:00 in the morning at this point, all right?

But man, what an opportunity to see the gospel go to a person. Man, if God saved that dude's life, how much of an impact he can make if he got on fire for Christ

Welcome the nations Mobilize. Number four. As we make disciples, equip them to go to the nations. Mission trips. Talk to Chris. He will help you mobilize. But guys, as y'all are pouring into each other here in this church, I know I've heard of several that you guys are in life groups together. Some of you are in smaller D group type stuff going on together.

A lot of you are pouring into life, on life with each other, and that is incredible. As you do that, have that mindset of, and how can we reach the nations? That's why in the life group guide every week I put a missional prayer point. If you didn't understand, that w- there's an agenda behind that, okay? It's to wake us up a little bit and say, "Hey, there's more than just us out here.

There's more than just the American church going on." There's a global movement of God's Spirit working in amongst his people to go to the nations, to share the gospel, and bring hope to people who have none, who are living in darkness, and who need to know that Jesus loves them and has died for them and has given them an opportunity for life.

And how dare we sit here in comfort and say, "Nah, Lord, that's not for me." Oh, God, help us. Help us But utilize, you guys are already in comm- community with each other. Utilize that as a way to remember and remind one another, "Hey, we're not here for just us. We are here for the sake of the world, that God's name would be glorified among the nations."

And then lastly, we can go. There's three participles in Matthew 28 there

Flip over to it

When Jesus tells them, he says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe." There's only one command there, and that command is make disciples. The other three that look like actions and commands are participles there to

support that main command

And what that means is when he says, "Go therefore," what he's saying is, as you go into this world, wherever you are, as you are going, make disciples. As you are going to the gym, make disciples. As you are going to the ball field with your kids, make disciples. As you are going to work, make disciples. As you are going to the park, make disciples.

As you are going here, there, and everywhere, make disciples of the nations

John 15:8 shows us that God is glorified as we bear much fruit. Church, we have work to do and glory to bring the Lord in bearing fruit and making disciples. That's why you have an inviter card in your seat today. That's one step. Take that thing, pray over it. Ask the Lord, "Who do I need to give this to to welcome them in so they can come in and hear the good news of the gospel?"

Also, in that same place that you wrote, "It's my job to make disciples," I want you to write down names of people who you need to reach out to this week. Write down the name of someone where you live, in your community or your neighborhood. Write down someone at your job. Write down someone at the gym, or at a restaurant that you go to all the time, and they know your order, and the waitress sees you come in, and they already got your food ready.

Maybe they need to hear it. But I want you to take that right now. Write those names down. And in a moment, we're gonna, we're gonna have a chance, as the worship team is coming in a little bit, to pray. And I invite you guys to write those names and pray, and if you don't have a name right now, that's fine.

You do know that we're supposed to reach the gospel with the na- to the nations, so pray for them So everyone needs to be thinking and praying at that moment 'Cause as you go, remember Jesus's promise that He will be with you to the end of the age. You are not doing this alone. You have access to God's power, authority, and His never-ending love.

Use that to make disciples, to fulfill your purpose. Look, I want to read from Revelation 7. Man, this gives us a good glimpse of what's to come, y'all. Sometimes we gotta start with the end in mind, and here it is right here. Revelation 7:9-10, "After this, I looked, and behold a great multitude that no one

could number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

Church, that is what we are looking forward to one day. As we sang about it, He is coming again. This is what we look forward to, being around God's throne with His people from every tribe, tongue, and language. Man, and we get to have a part in making disciples of those nations. Man, praise God. Your life has great purpose and value today.

Don't let anybody tell you otherwise. Just don't misplace your energy and the resources and the time that you have in things that have no eternal value

God has saved you, he has gifted you, he has called you. Respond I'm gonna pray for us as the worship team comes. Father We thank you for your grace today. And Lord, as I stand here and, Lord, I'm just reminded of the mission that you have called this church to, each and every believer here in this room. God, I'm Humbled that you would save us and then call us to be a part of what you're doing.

You would welcome us in to your presence and to your mission

Lord, help us to see clearly what it is that you're calling us to do, and help us to see clearly where it is you're wanting us to go and how you're wanting us to respond today. We need your Spirit, the power of your Spirit, Lord, to indwell inside of us, to give us strength, wisdom To give us the words to say as we go and proclaim the good news of the gospel And we trust that you will do it because you're good and you love us.

Lord, thank you for this time today. May you be glorified. In Jesus' name, amen.