

Hope Church South Haven October 5th 2025

Non-negotiable value: MISSIONAL

Matthew 28:16-20

Being RELATIONAL – it **describes the CONTEXT** for following Jesus.

Being INCARNATIONAL – it **describes the STRATEGY** for following Jesus.

Being TRANSFORMATIONAL – it **describes the OUTCOME** we strive for.

Today, we are talking about the 4th non-negotiable value when I follow Jesus. The value of
BEING MISSIONAL. It describes the FOCUS of following Jesus.

It's not a word some of us might use every day, but it gets to the heart of following Jesus.

Story from my own life.

I still remember one of my first experiences with missions. It was 1998 in a small coastal town called Margate – in province of Kwazulu-Natal South Africa.

- We did puppet shows and played volleyball with kids during the day – it was a low-budget version of Vacation Bible School on the beach.
- At night, we'd put on concerts.
- But the real work, began after the concert — confrontational evangelism!

- We'd ask people straight-up: "***If you died tonight, what would happen to you?***
Would you go to heaven, or hell?" We'd follow up: "***What would be your reasons?***"
- At the end of each night, we'd gather and talk about how **many conversations** we'd had, and how **many people had decided to follow Jesus**.
- And I must be honest – I WAS BAD AT IT. More than halfway through the mission trip I had no conversions. Many conversations. But no-one decided to follow Jesus because of talking to me.
- I remember the 3rd last night going out into the streets, **feeling this huge pressure to 'deliver' results**.
- Connected with this one 13-year-old kid...

FOOTNOTE: I'm not bashing confrontation evangelism or revival crusades. Through history God used it to **save** millions of people. God used it to *change* millions of lives. God used it to restore millions of marriages and relationships.

27 years ago, I had to realize that it was just not my gifting.

For a long time, I thought missions just meant doing these kinds of things. I thought living on mission was only about **going on mission trips or confrontational evangelism or**

signing up for church programs. But I've learned that being "missional" is a lot more than that.

LIVING MISSIONALLY means living as someone sent by God. **Showing and sharing the Good News** of Jesus in our *everyday lives*. Wherever we find ourselves, we get to ble
s
s and love people. We get to **represent Jesus** in this messy broken world.

Being MISSIONAL was the last thing Jesus reminded his followers to be.

We read about it in **MATTHEW 28:16-20** – also known as “the Great Commission.”

Verses 16-17:

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

Matthew 28:16-17 NIV

- Mountains in the Bible are special places where **God meets with people** — remember when Moses met God on Sinai or when Jesus was transfigured.
- There are *eleven disciples* instead of twelve — Judas betrayed Jesus and he killed himself out of guilt. Following Jesus is real life. Being a follower doesn't protect us from the good and the bad and the ugly.

- The disciples worshiped Jesus, but *some of them still doubted*.
- The original Greek word **διστάζω** (distazō) means HESITATED. Matthew uses the same word he used to describe it when Peter stepped out onto the water and started to sink.
- This moment reminds us of that **real faith coexists with doubts and questions**.

Verse 18:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Matthew 28:18 NIV

- Jesus is quoting DANIEL 7:14:

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Daniel 7:14 NIV

- Jesus’ authority is absolute. It stretches over both heaven and earth. The physical and spiritual dimension.
- Jesus reminds his disciples that He is the Lord **over the entire universe**.
- That His SOVEREIGNTY covers everything and everyone and everywhere.

Verses 19-20:

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.

Matthew 28:19-20 NIV

- The structure in Greek is crucial for understanding.
- There is one command – one thing the disciples need to do! One thing we need to do.
- **μαθητεύσατε** (*mathēteusate*) – **to make disciples**. That's the heart of following Jesus.
- *Three words* explaining how we make disciples – **go** and **baptize** and **teach**.
 - ⇒ **GOING** – **as you do life**, make disciples. Could be in your hometown or some exotic global destination.
 - ⇒ **BAPTIZING** – make disciples by helping people step into new life in Christ.
Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit.
 - ⇒ **TEACHING** – as you make disciples **share and live out the words of Jesus**.

- Jesus reminds his disciples that our mission is global. Jesus tells us to make disciples of **all nations**. Not just people that look and think and sound like us. Make disciples of everyone and everywhere.
- Great gift for the American church – the world is coming here.
- Jesus challenges his disciples that following Him is a lifelong obedience. It's not just about picking the parts of faith we like. That we are comfortable with.
 - ⇒ *It's about following* even when God's commands **challenge us**.
 - ⇒ *It's about following* even when God's commands **stretch us**.
 - ⇒ *It's about following* even when God's commands **call us to change**.

If your God never disagrees with you, you might just be worshipping an idealized version of yourself.

Tim Keller

- Jesus ends with the promises that he will always be with us. The same promise God made at the beginning of the Gospel.

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Matthew 1:23 NIV

What does Matthew 28 teach us about living a missional life?

Jesus sends.

- Jesus doesn't just want us to sit back and keep our faith to ourselves — **He sends us out into the world!**
- God first picked Israel to show His goodness to other nations. Israel was supposed to live for God in a way that **made other people want to know Him too**. They epically failed!
- In **MATTHEW 28**, Jesus tells us to go and share God's GOOD NEWS with everyone.
- We are CALLED to help bring God's love and goodness to all people, no matter where they live or who they are.
- Sometimes ***infection theology*** makes us afraid to get too close to the world — like we might catch something bad. Be infected by this world.
- But Jesus sends us anyway.
- God CHOOSES to use us the Church — you and me — to be part of His big rescue plan.

- To join God where He is already **at work**. Where God is already reaching people. Where God is already *changing lives*.

If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind?

How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death.

Dave Davidson

- This life is not just about my salvation.
- Matthew 28 challenges us that we cannot keep the Good News of Jesus to ourselves. We need to share what we've received from Jesus:
 - ⇒ Being **saved**.
 - ⇒ How Jesus gives us *hope* even when life is tough.
 - ⇒ How we find true meaning and purpose in Him.
 - ⇒ How Jesus helps us **live life in a new and better way**.
- We need to *invite people in* — especially people who feel lost or broken or left out — and **show them Jesus**.

The world can do anything the church can do except one thing: it cannot show grace.

Gordon Macdonald

Learning the how.

- Studies done by JOHN FINNEY in his book **Finding Faith** says most people don't come to faith instantly — *it's a gradual process*.
- MAIN REASONS why people come to Christ:
 1. Friends and family members who are Christians usually have the **strongest influence on people's faith journey**.
 2. **Being part of a loving church** helps people who feel alone find a place where they belong.
 3. When life is hard, people often start looking for answers. If CHRISTIANS AND THE CHURCH **show love and support** during these tough times, it can make a big difference
- We need to be present. We need **to engage**.
- JIM HENDERSON in his book **Lost** suggests we should count conversations and not conversions:
 - ⇒ Be authentic. Be open and honest. I do not have it all together.
 - ⇒ Practice small talk — get to know people. Ask questions and listen well. Don't change the conversation to be about yourself.
 - ⇒ Celebrate the good in others.

⇒ Be ready to share your faith.

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

- Remember: Not everyone is called to be a missionary overseas.
- But **everyone** is called to share the Good News wherever God has placed you.

Share a video of Josh Howerton of Lake Pointe Church.

Being missional means to live with an attitude of **NOT-ON-OUR-WATCH!** We will not change the world. But on our watch, we will do everything we can that our spouses and children and parents and colleagues and neighbors will hear and see the Good News of Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION: **God's proof** to the brokenness of our world – **NOT-ON-MY-WATCH.**