

Matthew 10:1-15

“The King Prepares His Disciples for Ministry”

Pastor Bruce Zachary

Church at the Park 2016

Intro. Calvary Nexus 20th Anniversary Celebration

The beginning: How we got here ...

God has done exceedingly and abundantly beyond anything we could have imagined! Calvary Nexus began in 1996 with a handful of people meeting at a park. We then moved to the Ponderosa Shopping Center and expanded during our first seven years from 2,000 to over 10,000 sq. feet. In 2004, our next venture of faith was buying land and developing our campus on Mobil Ave. During the next five years, God continued to expand our sphere of influence through our community service ministry [Beyond Sunday], the School of Ministry, and large-scale outreach events such as: Easter Sunday at Camarillo Ranch House, Church at the Park, and Christmas Eve at Constitution Park.

By 2009, we had outgrown the campus on Mobil Ave. and started a second campus on Lewis Rd. in Camarillo. We started a teaching team to offer live teaching of the same passage of the Bible at both campuses. The new Lewis Rd. location immediately began to offer a free youth center to our community, “The Bridge” for Junior and Senior High Students. Our platform for influence expanded beyond our community to reach our world for Christ. We send short-term teams and long-term missionaries, and support healthy churches around the globe. We developed the Calvary Church Planting Network [CCPN] a global church planting initiative in the Calvary Chapel movement. We initiated Velo Church Leaders to provide tools, training, and resources to help churches make disciples and develop leaders more effectively. In addition to a global influence, we have expanded Christ’s presence in our community with over 50 groups meeting throughout the area. Through the years we have seen hundreds come to Christ and be baptized.

Where God is leading us ...

We are passionate to love God, and our neighbors. We plan to saturate our community with the gospel through Christ-centered neighborhood groups.

Imagine the potential of connected groups where people learn to make Jesus king, develop as spiritual leaders, discover God’s love and display it to one another and their neighbors.

Imagine reaching our world for Christ one neighbor at a time. Imagine saturating our community and beyond with Jesus. When we connect with Christ and others, and develop authentic Christian community, we will make disciples who will transform. People will experience: personal restoration, thriving marriages, families strengthened to pass their faith

to the next generation. There will be a workplace and school witness for Christ. People will discover and experience their calling to advance God's kingdom. Neighborhoods will be transformed communities for Christ! We believe that God has given us a large enough church community that we can saturate the community around us and beyond with Jesus in the next ten years.

Our desire is for every person who is part of the Calvary Nexus community to participate in a neighborhood group. At the end of ten years (2026), we see over 200 Christ-centered Neighborhood Groups [NG] saturating every neighborhood of our community. The groups will be a place where we grow in Christ, and over 500 leaders will be developed who will be able to guide 1000s of people on the journey of a lifetime as they learn to make Jesus king in every realm of life. These groups will magnify Jesus and experience God's presence during the week, and as we gather to worship as a large community of faith on the weekends. We will demonstrate the love of God as we befriend and build relationships with our neighbors where we live, work, study, and play. We will offer to pray for, serve, and invite them to experience Christ with us.

Subject: The King Prepares His Disciples for Ministry

Object: Love God and Your Neighbor

Context: Disciples urged to pray for laborer's for God's harvest [9:35-38]

I. Jesus' Power [1] And when He had called His twelve disciples to *Him*, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease: gave the 12 power/authority in the spiritual realm, power to heal, and would be used to restore people to God

A. Jesus' gives His power to do whatever He has called you to do

1. We are called to Love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and love your neighbor as you love yourself [Matt. 22:37-40] a general call for all believers

II. Jesus' People [2-4]

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the *son* of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;⁴ Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

A. They were diverse people called to reach diverse people: The 12 were selected from a larger group after Jesus prayed all night [Lu. 6]

1. Simon Peter: a natural leader. Jesus transformed him from impulsive to a rock.

2. Andrew: Peter's brother, regularly brought people to Jesus

3. James: The 1st martyr of the 12 [Ac.12:2], He & Bro John were "Sons of Thunder" re their volatile nature, but Jesus transformed them.

4. John: was keenly aware of Christ's love. Wrote a gospel, 3 letters, Revelation

5. **Phillip:** also brought people to Jesus

6. **Batholemew (aka Nathaniel):** was a skeptic, but known for his honesty

7. **Thomas:** renown for doubting, but 1st to declare Resurrected Christ was God [Jn20]

8. **Matthew:** tax collector who exploited others, transformed by Jesus, gospel writer

9 & 10 **James and Thaddeus):** we know nothing from the Scriptures about him, but God used them to advance His kingdom

11. **Simon the Zealot:** nationalist, freedom fighter vs. Rome (would naturally hate Matthew the tax collector)

12. **Judas:** the betrayer, unfortunately not all who are called fulfill their call well.

B. They were ordinary people whose greatest qualification for mission was being with Jesus [Ac. 4:13]

III. Jesus' Preparation [5-15] Sending Out the Twelve

A. Place [5-6] These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

1. Jesus sends the gospel to a people and a place

a. Jesus sent the 12 initially to the Jews of Israel (**lost sheep of the house of Israel**). The gospel was sent to the Jews first and then the Gentiles.

2. We feel called to reach our community where we live, work, study, and play

a. We want to see Camarillo especially reached with the gospel.

B. Proclaim [7-8] And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons.**

1. Share the good news that God's kingdom is available today through Jesus [7]

a. Christ paid the penalty for your sin at the cross so you can be restored to God by yielding to Him

2. Transformed (restored) lives communicate the king has come [8]

C. Provision [8-10] Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹ **Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, ¹⁰ nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.**

1. The gospel is free because Jesus paid the price [8]

2. God will provide for His workers – don't worry you can depend on God [9-10]

a. 1 Cor. 9:14, 1 Tim. 5:17-18, Pr. 27:23-27

D. Place [11-15]

¹¹ **"Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. ¹² And when you go into a household, greet it. ¹³ If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. ¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!"**

1. A household is the place to reach a neighborhood

a. Imagine people in a neighborhood who have received Christ gather together in a home to grow in their love for God and their neighbors in the group and beyond the group (ie. those who don't know Christ where they live, work, study, and play).

ii. As we befriend and build relationships, and share God's love, we discover that some of these new friends are curious or receptive to the gospel, and are simply invited to discover Jesus with us.

2. Share the blessings of receiving & consequences of rejecting Jesus [13-15]

- a. Those who receive Christ have peace with God and exp. the life of God [13]
- b. Those who reject Christ will experience God's judgment for sin

IV. What is your next step to love God and your neighbor?

a. Belong: Belong to Jesus and start attending weekend services at a healthy local church. Then prepare to participate in a neighborhood group – create margin.

b. Become: grow as a disciple and/or as a leader prepared to lead a NG

c. Befriend: befriend and build relationships, and share Christ's love with your neighbors where you live, work, study and play.

Discussion Qs

- 1. What benefits have you experienced from your small group experience(s)?**
- 2. Discuss ideas to create margin in life to be able to befriend and build relationships with people where you live, work, study, and play.**
- 3. How would your group experience be different if unbelievers regularly attended?**
- 4. How might creating groups based on geographic proximity (i.e. people who live close to one another) in addition to affinity (i.e. common interests, or life stage) be effective in reaching a community for Jesus?**