

A Church on Mission
Being on Mission
Matthew 28:18-20

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Introduction to Text: At various times this year, I have done some major teaching on our core values as a church. I have suggested that we adopt these four core values as a church.

1. We must preach the same Gospel.
2. We must declare this message to the next generation.
3. We must preach this same Gospel to all the nations.
4. Whatever we accomplish must be all for God's glory.

In this current series, we are focused on the third core value. A singular word for this core value is the word "missions." We have talked in this series about believing in mission, giving, going, and praying. Today, I want to give us the word "being" on mission. That is we are not to go on missions, but we are to be on mission. That is, there is not a specific time to go on mission, we are always on mission. This is what Jesus meant, is it not, when He gave the disciples what we have grown to call The Great Commission?

Text: ¹⁸ Then Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Introduction: In three weeks, which is Sunday, December 5, we are going to have Pat Melancon as our guest speaker. Even though Pat is a missionary, I hesitate to call him a missionary. I hesitate not because of Pat, but because of us. Although it is true that Pat is a missionary, the truth of the Bible is that all of us are missionaries.

This was Jesus' point in giving us this Great Commission. All of us are to be on mission. I want to talk about that today. Not so much in a way that gives a complete exposition of this text as is our usual practice, but in a way that just speaks from my heart of what I hope I am becoming and what I hope our church is becoming.

Two Introductory Thoughts:

1. It is not enough to be mission-minded, we must be missionary.

Our church has a long history of being what some might refer to as mission-minded. We are among leaders in our Convention of the amount we give to missions. Routinely, the denomination recognizes us as they just did for being in the top 100 churches in the nation for missions giving. We routinely send mission teams to various spots around the world. We have

organizations that meet routinely to pray for and talk about missions. However, I want us to understand that “It is not enough to just be mission-minded, we must be missionary.” What’s the difference you ask? I think the difference is significant. When you are mission-minded you do missions work, you go on mission trips, you think about missions, you give to missions, you support missions. I am calling for us to be less concerned about what we “do” and be concerned about who we are. Maybe this phrase will help with the distinction I am making—I want us to pursue being missionary saturated.

2. To be missionary is the place where we will see our entire core values intersect.

Think about these other core values: Gospel, next generation, and God’s glory. All of these intersect at the place of missions. We want the whole world to hear the Gospel. We want the next generation to catch the vision for mission saturation. What about the glory of God. We want God’s glory to expand to all the nations. I have been meditating on Romans 1:5 this week, “We have received grace and apostleship through Him to bring about the obedience of faith among all the nations, **on behalf of His name.**” We want the whole world to know because we want them to go to Heaven. We believe we must go because we have a command to go. But, this verse teaches us that we want the whole world to know about Jesus because this adds glory to His name.

What does it take to be missionary?

We act like missionaries. We must do what missionaries do.

1. Realization of the power.
The good news is that we have it. Power is from Him.
2. Revitalization of the passion.
Love the lost. Missionaries always love their people. Do we have this kind of passion?
3. Recognition of the priorities.
Will we put off what we want for what He wants?
4. Re-orientation to missionary principles.
We must do what missionaries do. Missionaries work within the context of the culture around them.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22, “¹⁹ For although I am free from all people, I have made myself a slave to all, in order to win more people. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law —to win those under the law. ²¹ To those who are outside the law, like one outside the law—not being outside God’s law, but under the law of Christ—to win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some.

Two Concluding Thoughts:

1. None of this happens overnight.
2. None of this happens once.