

Sermon Series: TRANSFORMATION

Sermon: Go Until You Hear A No

Text: Matthew 28:16-20

Discussion Questions:

These past two months, we've been exploring life transformation through two very important lenses: 'Spiritually Alive' and 'Relationally Connected'. This morning, we're turning our attention to a third vital aspect of a transformed life: ***Missionally Engaged***. In other words, we are to be *engaged in the mission of Jesus Christ*.

"Missional" is a word that has become far more used in Christian circles over the past twenty-five years or so. When I was growing up, the word that I heard used quite often was "Missionary." Open your discussion today by talking a bit about missionaries.

- What do you understand a missionary to be?
- What has been your general impression of missionaries throughout your life?
- Did you have any significant encounters with missionaries that have shaped your understanding or impression of missionaries?
- Did you ever aspire to be (or perhaps even experienced a "call" to be) a missionary?
- Why do you think there has been a shift in terminology from *missionary* to *missional*? Are there possibly some negative connotations to the thought that some are missionaries, and some are not?

Examination:

- Read **Matthew 10:1-20**.
 - How important is it that Jesus gave these men authority as He was sending them out? Why do you think casting out demons and healing the sick are the two things that Jesus specifically mentions?
 - Most scholars place this chapter more towards the beginning of the ministry of Jesus (early in year two). Does this surprise you? Does this seem like a "big job" for a young apprentice?
 - Why does Jesus "limit" where they are to go (vv. 5-6)?
 - It's a simple little phrase: "*Freely you have received; freely give.*" (v. 8). How can we apply this truth to our lives today?
 - Why were they instructed to travel so "lightly" (vv. 9-10)?
 - Verse 11 is often described as a "person of peace." Why was this important? Who do you know to be a person of peace?

- What do you think Jesus meant by being “shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves” (v. 16)?
- Is it a comfort to you to have Jesus say, “do not worry about what to say or how to say it. (v. 19)?
- Read **Matthew 10:21-42**.
 - One of the most challenging verses in all of Scripture is verse 22: “*You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*” Talk about giving people the bad news up front! It wasn’t IF they were going to be persecuted, but WHEN. Was Jesus talking just to the disciples - and what they were going to face - or was He talking to us as well?
 - What do you think Jesus meant when He said in verse 26, “*There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed*”?
 - Discuss the implications of the fact (v. 40) that whenever anyone welcomes us - they welcome Jesus.
- Read **Matthew 28:16-20**.
 - Why do you think Matthew included the phrase in verse 17, “*...but some doubted.*”?
 - Once again, Jesus assures them of His authority (v. 18). I’ll ask again, why is this important?
 - For those raised in the church, the language of the “Great Commission” is familiar. But sometimes familiarity can breed a lack of urgency. Talk about this word “Go.” There’s no question that this commission isn’t just for the disciples - but for all of us. What does it really mean to GO. Where are we to go? Does “going” mean that we have to leave the country and move to a foreign land? Is “going” more *missional*, than it is being an actual *missionary* (in the traditional sense)?
 - Making disciples and baptizing are the two key aspects of this command to go. What is a disciple? How do we make them? Why do you think baptism makes this “top two” list of activities involved with going?
 - How does obedience relate to becoming a disciple (v. 20)? Doesn’t this imply that becoming a disciple is a life-long process - and not just a one-time “event” of belief?
 - How does this paragraph support the teaching of the trinity (v. 19)?
 - What does it mean to you to know that we’re never alone...that Jesus is always with us (v. 20)?

Application:

We read in Luke 10 about two sisters. Martha was busy about many things, while Mary focused on one thing - taking advantage of sitting with Jesus while He was in her home. We can make the same mistake today. We can be busy about many things in our Christian lives, and fail to concentrate on the “first thing” that ought to be our primary focus - going and making disciples. Look for ways to be missionally engaged in this coming week, right where you live, work and play.