

## Engage the Mission

### November 29, 2009

### Matthew 20:16-20

Evangelize the Lost, Build Mature Disciples, Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus!

I'm a huge fan...

- ...UK Sports (football & basketball)
- ...Penn St. Football
- ...The Colts
- ...Tony Stewart
- ...The Cubs

- I've never played for them...but I cheer, I scream, I get mad, I yell, I turn the channel.
- I know a lot about each of them and they don't know a thing about me.

- Our goal is not for you to become a fan of our church or any church...but many of you have been fans for years...

- ...come to most of the games.
- ...cheered, jeered, changed the channel
- ...minimal support
- ...never on the field of play!

...go home, fighting a crowd to be first out of the parking lot...discussing the highlights of the game, without discussing your contribution...you ever do that with a ball game... "if I would have screamed a little louder." "Man, I could have done a better job on our sign."

Today, we are looking at the mission of our church and how we can engage it. Not looking for fans, but looking for people who want to be in the game.

#### **Matthew 28:16-20**

**16) Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.**

- Following Jesus resurrection, Jesus meets them, and tells them to meet him in Galilee
- Distance of about 70 miles
- Jesus says meet me here...the disciples could have balked right? We're kind of here already Jesus, got something on your mind? Can we meet some where outside Jerusalem?
- You mean I have to cross town again!
- Jesus it's like Sunday and I've got Extreme Home Makeover and Desperate Housewives DVRing...so
- Jesus says, meet me here and you say what?
- Sometime that 1st step towards the mission, that 1st step of obedience is the hardest.
- The disciples show willingness, love, obedience, commitment and take those first steps.

**17) When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!**

- Worshiped him
- some doubted? 1 Corinthians 15, Paul mentions that Jesus was seen by a crowd of about 500 people at one time, many scholars believe that moment to be now. That along with the 11 disciples, came all the followers and those who placed their hope in Christ.
- Doubted he was alive, that he conquered death.

- What doubts do you have about Jesus as you worshiped him, let's be honest...life is hard. Some of you walked into this space today a mess...your marriage stinks, your heart is broken, you barely make ends meet, you come in hopeless. Do you know that Jesus cares for you. That he can get you through life's storms. Sometimes he will end the storms, other times, he'll just hold your hand.
- Some of you doubt that he could love you. That you are a special breed of sinner that can't be love...that is a lie!
- Jesus is alive. Jesus cares for you, forgives you, saves you, died for you, gives you new life, is here with us always! You can believe. You can trust. Jesus does heal! Jesus does restore. Does strengthen. Jesus loves you.

**18) Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.**

- ALL AUTHORITY in HEAVEN and on EARTH...
- Given - authority given to me once...Lia & the TV
- Jesus had given up his heavenly crown, to become like us...to save us...but now!

**Ephesians 1:19-23**

**19) I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20) that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21) Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22) God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23) And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.**

- Picture this scene...Jesus standing before all these people...no money, no bling, no army behind him, stating...I am over EVERYTHING!
- What you have, what you own, what you call yours...belongs to Jesus!
- You've heard me say, I've taught this to my kids...when they don't share, they say "it's mine!", no it belongs to God. Then they ride their bikes to close to my car...don't scratch my car!!! It's not your car...it's God's car.
- You wanted a King, you wanted a ruler, you wanted a Lord...I am! I am sovereign. I am the leader...not in a weak earthly way...my kingdom is in you! In the hearts of those who place their faith in me! You are my subjects! ...you okay with that?
- No seriously. Think about it. You okay, having Jesus be in charge of your life? It's not about you, what you want...but about him?
- That's one of the reason's why we tithe and give. Jesus is asking...is your bank account, my bank account? You still okay out there? With Jesus being in control of your life?
- Then the Holy Spirit lays it on your heart...you want me to speak to who? Forgive who? Go where? Give what?

**19) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

- Therefore, because I've been give all authority...GO
- Because, I am not asking, not begging or pleading...but by my authority...as Your LORD! As Your SAVIOR...GO!!
- Not - GO make a great life for yourselves! Not - GO work hard so you can retire in a few years!
- GO make disciples...lead others to be followers of me, lead them to my saving grace...reach out to those who don't know, do everything you can to evangelize those who don't know, those who are lost, those who doubt! GO!!
- Schindler's List, at the end of the movie, incredible scene....Just one more!!

- I wonder sometimes, I know that some of you get it, but I sometimes question if I get it myself...what are we waiting for!! Do we understand that there is a heaven and a hell, and it is only by Jesus we are saved.
- Why are there empty spaces in the pews today? Do WE not have friends and family and neighbors and co-workers that need Christ? GO!
- **Acts 1:6-11**
- Go make disciples of all nations, jews and gentiles, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit!
- GO, lead people to Christ
  - being witnesses
  - sharing the good news
  - inviting them to gatherings
  - meeting the needs of others.
  - praying for the opportunity
- GO! Evangelize the Lost - We don't do this cause we want to make it on some list of mega churches. Who cares. We do this because the one who has all authority, the one who redeemed us, purchased our lives said, "GO!"

***20) Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

- Teach these new disciples all the ends and outs of scripture, so they can quote them on the spot. Use them to condemn and convict others of their sins....no.
- Teach them to obey...to go when I say go.
- BUILD MATURE DISCIPLES that live out the Word of God!
- Lead them to obedience.
- Don't just lead them to accept me as Lord and Savior and get baptized, slap them on the back and say "good luck"...teach them to obey my commands.
- I am with you ALWAYS!
- Not "I will be with you..." but "I AM" with you always!
- Take hold of that promise the Jesus is with us...how else could we live out part 3 of our mission,
- BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS
  - What does Jesus want me to do with these hands, these feet, this brain, this mouth, this body, this mind, this spirit? What does he want from you and I...obedience.

**- Evangelize the Lost, Build Mature Disciples, Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus**

**- How do I engage?**

**#1 - Both Corporate & Individually** - this isn't something you do for the church or in the the church, but is how you are living life! Our approach is that we would become a church whose members are living life for Jesus 24/7

**#2 - Invest!** I have to ask one more time...you need to realize how much your giving is linked to being able to accomplish the mission of our church.

- **Invest your heart & soul!** (do the vision/mission wake you up, r u praying)

- **Invest your time** (have you simplified your life so you can get on mission)

- **Invest your money** (do you believe God has called you to something greater than material things?)

- Countless examples of what this looks like when you engage the mission: All pro dad, missions, Faith Hope Love, working with children & students, engaging small groups. We are not in this life to make the most of it for ourselves...Jesus has called us to be on mission!