

## SEND

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been looking at our disciple-making strategy called REACH DISCIPLE SEND. We are in Week 3 and this morning we are going to look at the final aspect of sending.

In **John 20:21** Jesus said, “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

When you accepted the call to follow, Jesus, you accepted the call to live sent. **Matthew 4:19**, “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

The call to be involved in the mission of Jesus is synonymous with the call to follow Jesus.

“There is a widespread myth in the church that “calling into ministry” is a secondary experience that happens to only a few, privileged Christians. Few lies cripple the mission more than that one.” JDG

The Christian life is more than just being saved from your sins; it is a life of pursuing God and realizing that you are not just saved from something but to something.

All believers are “called” to make disciples!  
This is where the fun begins!

“Of all the factors that go into where you pursue your career, why wouldn’t the Kingdom of God be the largest of

all those factors? Why not pursue your career somewhere strategic for the advancement of the gospel.” JDG

As you read the New Testament and specifically the gospels, you realize that Jesus was laser focused on the kingdom of God!

As His followers, we are to be focused on the kingdom of God as well.

Let me make a shocking but true statement:  
One day, Clements Baptist Church will die.

Now, I don’t believe that this church will die in the next century but one day, if the Lord tarries, this church will die.

You can go to the Middle East, and you can see the remains of the church at Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, Galatia, Thessalonica. They are all gone.

And as Vance Pitman says, “These churches all got book deals in the Bible!”

Like these churches, one day, Clements will die.  
But in that day, the Kingdom of God will be alive and well!!  
The church is not the goal, The Kingdom is!  
So, we are not going to try and build our kingdom, we are going to be laser focused on building God’s Kingdom!

Now that we have settled the question of “Am I sent?”, the only questions left to answer is the question of how and the question of where.

## Living Sent: The How

### **Realize that God is always working around you.**

We need to be sensitive to where the Holy Spirit is working around us.

Story: I told you last week about my friend Hayden in southern Japan and I asked you to pray for Hoggard. Well, last week, Hoggard came to Christ!!

God was working in Hoggard's life, and Hayden got involved, shared the gospel, and God did the rest!

Now: God is at work in a man named Jacob Adams. Pray for his salvation as well as the salvation of a girl named Anna.

As you walk through this life, realize that you are an ambassador of Christ and you are to be looking for where God is working and then get involved!

- **God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.**

It's His work, not ours.

God doesn't ask us to dream our dreams and make our plans and then pray and ask Him to bless our plans. No, He is Sovereign, He is at work, and He invites us to join in on His activity.

**Biblical Truth: If God is not at work in a situation, me and you trying to force our way in will bear no fruit.**

So, we find out where God is working and join Him!

**John 15:5**, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.**"

Remember that our first calling is into a relationship with the Lord. Everything we do for the Lord overflows from our relationship with Jesus.

**Mark 3:14**, "He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach."

When you are walking in intimate fellowship with God, He can reveal to you that He is at work in a particular area. Then, many times He will invite you to join in what He is doing and then He does the work through you.

**Practical Takeaway: When the Lord brings someone to your mind, pray for them and then reach out in that moment. You never know how the Lord will use the timing of that call or text to impact that individual.**

How can God use you?

John Piper wrote a book called "Don't Waste Your Life" and in that book he shared a story of a retired couple from a popular travel magazine.

"Bob and Penny took early retirement from their jobs in the Northeast five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda, Florida, where they cruise on their 30-foot trawler, play softball, and collect shells."

Is this something that you want to aim at? Make enough money so you can retire early and die playing softball and collecting shells?

Piper then said:

“The American Dream: come to the end of your life— your one and only precious, God-given life— and let the last great work before you give an account to your Creator be, ‘I collected shells. Lord, see my shells.’ That is a tragedy.”

Don’t buy it!! Don’t sell out for that type of shallow, self-centered life.

C.T. Studd said:

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.  
And when I am dying, how happy I'll be,  
If the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee.”

You were created for so much more!! You were created to glorify God by being sent out to make disciples!

## Living Sent: The Where

Acts 1:4-11

So the DISCIPLE aspect of our ministry is equipping you to do what God has called you to do and then we SEND you somewhere strategic to do it: “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

## I. Make Disciples in Jerusalem

Jerusalem is home. It is the place where people have the same customs and values as you do. Many are called to stay home and make disciples.

Let me parenthetically say that the first place of discipleship is the home. God’s plan was that parents would have children and raise their children up to follow Him.

Parents, I pray that you are being intentional to make sure your children are following Jesus.

Serving the Lord “in Jerusalem” is not just an easy option but it should be a calling! Just like a call to go serve the Lord overseas, you need to be able to say, “God has called me to serve Him here in North Alabama.”

### Jerusalem Ministry

If God has called you to be a teacher, or a nurse, or a firefighter, or a coach, or a child advocate, you should approach that position from a perspective of that is your platform for making disciples.

Don’t waste your life!

TEXT “SERVEKIDS” to 256-729-1328 to serve in children’s ministry

## II. Make Disciples in Judea and Samaria

Some of you will not stay in North Alabama and you will accept a call to go make disciples in the surrounding areas of this country.

The people in “Judea and Samaria” do not have the same beliefs as you do. They may look different than you and dress different; their culture may seem weird to you but you will be called to magnify the name of Jesus among these people!

We are called to die to ourselves and our preferences, to serve them so that they may hear the good news of Jesus and be redeemed by Him.

Maybe God is calling you to go and serve on a church plant in a different city. You go and engage the culture of that area and serve the city.

Vance Pitman, president of the SEND Network of NAMB gave an example of a good church planting strategy. Many believe that it should be:

1. Plant a church.
2. Make disciples.
3. Serve the city.

But this strategy is foreign to the New Testament.

The planting strategy of NAMB is this:

1. Serve the city.
2. Make disciples.
3. Plant a church.

A church in Haiti just sent out 170 missionaries. Tim DeTellis, as a teenager, planted this church with his dad.

### **III. Make Disciples to the Ends of the Earth**

The last option we have in where we are to make disciples is the ends of the earth.

Think about this:

I believe the “tip of the spear” for world mission going forward will be business rather than church planting.

J.D. Greear wrote this, “If you add up all the Christian missionaries from all denominations and missions agencies in the 10/40 window, there are about 40,000 “missionaries.” The number of Americans working in secular employment in the 10/40 window is 2 million.<sup>6</sup> Assuming that the faith of Americans working overseas resembles that of Americans living at home, about 35 percent of them identify as born-again with some semblance of engagement in the faith, such as church attendance. If even one-third of that number were effective disciple-makers, that would increase the number of Christian evangelists on the front lines from 40,000 to 240,000, all without costing mission agencies another dime.”

I want to give you the license, the freedom, I want to give you permission to ask God if He is calling you to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Ask the Lord how and where He is calling you to go and make disciples.