Reach Pt. 1

Moving Beyond Me

Acts 1:8

**24**Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25**For whoever would save his life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? Matthew 16:24-26

Jesus was saying to his disciples and anyone who would truly follow after the way of Jesus, there is a **cost** to following Jesus.

The ultimate cost of following Jesus is death to **ourselves**. We must die to ourselves in order to truly live.

In order to do that, in order to really follow after Jesus, we have to have a **reality check** on how much of our selves are in the way of our relationship with Christ.

Jesus understood the value of abandonment. He realized if he could not have all of you, or all of me, it would be a less than committed response.

**26**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:26

Jesus is saying that we must hold **loosely** to the things of this life, and cling tightly to the Person of Jesus in the life to come.

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him to come and die”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – *The Cost of Discipleship*

One of the most specific prayers Jesus asked us to pray was this,

**2**And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

**We can move beyond ourselves when we understand our mission.**

and you will be my witnesses Acts 1:8

A mission statement is that a statement that defines **what** an organization does, **how** it does it, and **who** it does it for.

The church’s mission statement, starting at Jerusalem and leading up to now, is “you will be my witnesses”.

Witness (Gk marturej – martures - English: Martyr).

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church” --Tertulllian, 2nd Cent. A.D

To bear witness means you are giving a **true account** of what you have seen and experienced personally. A witness is someone who sees something and tells others about it.

We have seen the glory of Jesus in our lives. If you are a born again believer, you know the miracle of forgiveness. You know the power of prayer. You know the peace that passes all understanding. These all give glory to Christ, which you have seen. We cant sit on something as glorious as that. We must not keep quiet. We can’t keep quiet. It’s like the prophet Ezekiel who declared

If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. Jeremiah 20:9

Alternative for Not Being A Witness

1. Our conversion experience was not **genuine**.

**19**They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

1 John 2:19

1. We are living in **disobedience** in our lives currently.

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. **2**For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **3**heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, **4**treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5**having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

**We can move beyond ourselves when we expand our boundaries.**

in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

We must expand our boundaries to be that of God’s boundaries, **the whole world**.

**16**“For God so loved the world,[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

**We can move beyond ourselves when we receive God’s power.**

**8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you Acts 1:8

The only way for the church to effectively be witnesses of Christ was to be **empowered** supernaturally by God himself in the person of the Holy Spirit.

**6**But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” Acts 3:6

When we are empowered by the Spirit of God, we can speak **boldy** in ways we never thought possible.

What Now?

1. Pray for God to reveal to you ways you can abandon your own desires in exchange for His.
2. Seek to open your eyes and ask God to break your heart for the things that break his.
3. Repent of a disobedient life and start walking in the power of the Holy Spirit daily.

Reach Pt. 2

Helping Others Find and Follow Jesus

Matthew 28:16-18

Common Reasons We May Have In Not Sharing Our Faith

1. We don’t know what to **say**.
2. We don’t know **when** to say things.
3. We fear we will mess up and cause **harm** to the name of Jesus.

Sharing our faith takes **thought** and **work.**

As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:5

**15**Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,[a] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

We must know how to **handle** the Word of God in order to share our faith.

At some point, the believer’s lifestyle must include the **words** of the gospel, spoken to others as a reason for their hope.

**15**but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15

1. **We can help others find and follow Jesus when we expect great things from God. v. 16**

**16**Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

Matthew 28:16

Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God. – William Carey

Showing others to Jesus begins with the expectation of **what God can do**.

**20**Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,

Ephesians 3:20

1. **We can help others find and follow Jesus when we see people’s potential. v. 17**

**17**And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. Matthew 28:17

When help others find and follow Jesus, we must not be quick to **label** them.

**7**But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” Luke 18:27

The reality is that God does not want **anyone** to go to hell.

**9**The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you,[a] not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

1. **We can help others find and follow Jesus when we do so by the authority of Jesus.**

**v. 18.**

**18**And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28:18

When we share our faith with others, we do so **in the name of Jesus**.

**8**But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only

say the word, and my servant will be healed. **9**For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant,[a] ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” **10**When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel[b] have I found such faith.

Matthew 8:8-10

What Now?

1. **We can attempt greater things for God, and expect him to move in big ways.**
2. **We need to treat everyone as a potential citizen of the kingdom of God and work to that aim.**
3. **We need to trust God and his authority to rule in people’s lives and do far more than we expect or imagine.**

*Interested in going on a team to Moldova with Pastor Derik in 2017? Come find out more details at an informational meeting* ***Sunday, August 21st at 12:15pm*** *following the service in the fellowship hall. The meeting should last no more than 45 minutes.*

Reach Pt. 3

Matthew 28:19-20

If Jesus Asked, Would You?

Disciple μαθητής (*mathētēs*) Learner, Student, Pupil, or Follower. Adherent

The point of a disciple was to **be with Jesus** and to know Jesus on a **deep** level.

**14**And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach. Mark 3:14

**10**that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11**that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

A true disciple is more than just **informed** by the words and person of Jesus, they are **transformed** into a totally different way of looking at life and the world.

Everything **changes**.

**2**Do not be conformed to this world,[c] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

One of the primary purposes of the church is to build God’s Kingdom and increase it in **quantity** and in **quality**.

**19**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**We can obey the Great Commission by going where Jesus asked us to go.**

**19**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, v. 19a

Here’s what’s next. Jesus commands us to “go”. This is a grouping of three phrases that are all subordinate to the phrase central to this passage of “make disciples”.

When Jesus says “go”, a more literal translation would be “**as you are going**”

Going implies movement. It implies action. It implies crossing boundaries.

We have to cross the **street**. (Jerusalem)

We have to cross the **neighborhood**. (Judea)

We have to cross the **state** (Samaria)

We have to cross the **world**. (Ends of the Earth)

**We can obey the Great Commission by baptizing those we lead to Jesus.**

baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, v. 19b

The word baptize (greek baptizo) literally means to place (immerse) **under** water.

What Baptism is:

1. Baptism is an **outward** symbol of an **inward** commitment.

**41**So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. Acts 2:41

1. Baptism is an **identification** with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

**4**We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

1. Baptism is done as Jesus did it. He **came up** out of the water.

**10**And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Mark 1:10

1. Baptism is a testimony to the **Triune** nature of God.

***Baptism is not***:

1. Something that **saves** you.

**16**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

1. Something that **washes** your sin away.

**7**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

**We can obey the Great Commission by teaching believers to be a disciple-maker. V. 20**

teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

What Next?

1. Discover where God is calling you to “go” and begin to move.
2. Follow through in obedience to the Lord’s Command to be baptized.
3. Become active in teaching others about obedience to Christ.