

Sermon Title: Embracing Discipleship – Part 3: Adopting a Missional Lifestyle

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. If you had the chance, would you travel on a mission to space? Why or why not?
2. Tell of a time when you experienced a different culture. What did you appreciate about that culture? How well were you able to adapt?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Matthew 10:5-15

Pastor Ashwin noted that these instructions are given to the 12 disciples on a particular mission in their context. Not all of these verses will apply literally to our situation.

3. Pastor Ashwin says our calling is the same as Jesus': "To be agents of God who bring restoration". What qualifications do we need to live out this calling?
4. What limits does Jesus place on His disciples on mission? Which apply to us? Discuss how these limits both encourage and enable us.

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Pastor Ashwin gave a description of "persons of peace". What are characteristics of a person of peace? How do you know it's time to invest in a relationship with someone and when it's time to focus energy elsewhere?
6. What lifestyle changes can I make that would increase my missional impact? How can I maximize my missional impact as restrictions are lifted due to COVID?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Pastor Ashwin encourages us to ask ourselves, "What unique burdens do I carry, what breaks my heart, who am I drawn to"? With the passions God has given you, how has He called you to serve others? What next steps can you take to fulfill this calling?

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THE WORD (NIV)

Matthew 10:5-15

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹ "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

sermon study summary

Embracing Discipleship – Part 3: Adopting a Missional Lifestyle

June 13 / 14, 2020

Pastor Ashwin

Pastor Ashwin continues our series in Matthew: “Embracing Discipleship: Adopting a Missional Lifestyle.”

Discipleship requires not a casual allegiance but our wholehearted devotion!

Every disciple of Jesus is a missionary irrespective of our vocation. Just as Jesus commissioned His original disciples, He has commissioned us today to announce the arrival of His Kingdom to the world. Here is the question for you and I: If we are missionaries, what does this missionary lifestyle look like? What patterns, convictions and values form the core of our lives?

There are significant principles in Matthew 10:5-15 that will help us to live as missionaries. Remember, if we are not engaged in God’s mission, we are disconnected from God’s purposes for our lives!

We engage in mission as a community – this not just an individual enterprise. One of the biggest challenges in living the missional lifestyle is discouragement and it is often because we are engaging in this all alone.

God doesn’t expect one Christian, one Community Group or one church to reach the whole world. In verses 5 and 6 Ashwin shows us that just as Jesus gave his disciples a specific task for that time, He gives us specific assignments in which we are called to partner with Him as individuals, groups and as local churches.

He gives us unique burdens – He draws us to a particular person or group of people, but our mission is the same. Pastor Ashwin urges you to ask yourself these questions “what unique burdens do I carry, what breaks my heart, who am I drawn to?” Ask who the Lord is leading you to – what burdens He is placing on your heart and be sensitive to the Spirit’s promptings.

What was Jesus doing when he performed miracles? He was announcing the arrival of a new Kingdom – a Kingdom that will bring restoration. From verses 7 and 8 Ashwin reminds us that our calling is the same as Jesus’, and that He gives us the same authority that characterized His life, to be agents of God’s restoration. Jesus is calling us to action, to actively follow in His footsteps. His power may be demonstrated through us in supernatural ways, but more importantly we will be confronting brokenness wherever we see it as God’s ambassadors of hope and healing.

Ashwin directs us to verse 8 where Jesus instructs his disciples, “Freely you have received; freely give.” The power and authority disciples of Jesus have is God’s gift, so don’t seek payment in return – gift it freely to others. In verse 9 the disciples are instructed “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts.” The disciples will have to rely on the hospitality and financial help of the people they minister to, but more importantly this experience will teach them dependence on the Lord, not on their own resources.

In verses 11-14 Jesus gives His disciples instructions where to spend their time and energy. Ashwin says that, like Jesus’ disciples, we should intentionally look for people of peace – who are open to Jesus – who are receptive to the gospel.

Ashwin quotes Gordon Aeschliman who said: “I want to live in North America in such a way that Satan would rather have me overseas as a missionary.” With God’s help, let us live like that: adopting a missional lifestyle so God’s Kingdom can advance through our lives!