



DISCIPLESHIP

YOUR GREATEST CALLING IN 2020 (Matthew 26:16-20) We are five days into 2020. It's a new year, a new decade and it's of the utmost importance for us all to be reminded what we have been made for. This morning you might feel exhausted, you might feel old, you might feel defeated, you might be constantly riddled with anxiety, depression and bitterness. Could it be because we aren't doing what we are designed to do?

This morning, do you want to know what you are created for? What is your new heart crying out to experience? According to the infallible, inerrant, holy Word of God, what are we made to do? We are created by Almighty God to make disciples!

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. ¹⁷ When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt 28:16-20)

There are three parts to these verses:

1. Jesus' authoritative claim
2. Jesus' great commission
3. Jesus' loving assurance

Jesus claims that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to him. Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, He has triumphed over guilt and condemnation. Three days later, He was raised from the dead and triumphed over death and suffering. Colossians 1:13-14 says, "He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Because of His humble sacrifice on the cross, Paul talks about the culmination of His authority, "God has highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2:9-11)

This One who has all authority in heaven and on earth has laid out the priorities of your life. What's the blueprint of our lives? What are we called to? Golden Retrievers were made to retrieve. The Gibbon Monkeys were created by God to swing in those trees. Those beautiful California dolphins were made to swim in and out of those waves.

What are we made for? We have been recreated for a purpose. We have been recreated to go and make disciples of all the nations. Jesus has come to be Lord and Savior to all people, to all nations, to all cultures and He has graciously allowed us to be a part of this process.

Jesus says, "Go!" You were made to GO. You have not been redeemed, reconciled, justified, sanctified and eventually glorified to be put into a kennel. You were made to fly and to feel the pleasure of God as you make disciples of all the nations.

Every time someone has an encounter with the Living God, it changes that person into a person who GOES. When you have been transformed by the love of God, it destroys your consumer, self-centered, self-obsessed

heart. It pushes you out. God's love always sends us out. God's love always moves us outside of ourselves. God's love is all about taking risk.

- What does Yahweh say to Abram in Genesis 12? Get out of your country. Leave your father's house. Go to another land. I will make you a great nation and through you all the families of the earth will be blessed (Gen. 12:1-3).
- In Exodus 3, Moses encounters Yahweh in the desert through the burning bush. God alters his life forever. What's one of the first things he tells him? "Go! Go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people go!" Moses is like "but, but, but, but, but, but..." Yahweh says, "I don't care. Whatever excuse you have I don't care. My answer is Me. Go, go, go, go, go, go, go."
- In Isaiah 6, Isaiah sees the "Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple" with glory (Isa. 6:1). Isaiah sees the Holy God and falls apart and says "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips." (Isa. 6:5). Yahweh lays out the ministry for Isaiah: you are going to go there for years and years and years and they will relentlessly reject you. This is not going to be a successful ministry. What is Isaiah's response? "Here I am. Send me!"
- In Luke 5, Jesus comes to Peter who had been fishing all night and had caught no fish. Jesus says, "I want you to try the other side of the boat." The boat almost capsizes because there are so many fish. What is Peter's response? "Depart from me! I am a sinful man." Jesus says, "I'm not going anywhere...I'm making you a fisher of men."

But these are exceptions?! Jesus says no they aren't! In fact, Jesus says, you are going to experience greater things than this (John 14:12). Jesus pulls you in so that He can send you out. This is His plan for 2020 - to go and make disciples of all the nations.

As your heart races with anxiety, what is Jesus' loving assurance? What is His comfort? "I am with you always to the end of the age." With every enemy, every disease, every trial and challenge, what's His promise? He is with us. We can face the worst threats and say with the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 4:16-17, "Everyone deserted me, but the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." Jesus says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb. 13:5) I AM WITH YOU!

YOUR GREATEST CALLING

We are a disciple making church. Our prayer is that you would be discipled so that you can disciple others. We want to see God build relationships and partnerships with one another where we can pray specifically with one another, we can speak the truth in love, we can delight in the Word of the Lord together and we can hear the Holy Spirit together. We call these small gatherings around God's Word discipleship.

1. Are you new to a relationship with Jesus?
2. Do you need a partner to pray with you and speak truth to you?
3. Have you become self-absorbed? Do you want your world to be bigger than your family and the concerns of today?
4. Do you feel all alone and need a place to be known and loved and prayed for?
5. Would you be open to discipleship in 2020 and let us know on the Connection Card?

Why do we do this? Because we are designed to do this and designed to give it away to others. We live in a lonely, shame-filled, dark world. We are made for so much more!

The nations are waiting: let's make disciples!