

Series, Discipleship Explored!

Part 6: Jesus, The Movement, You & the Hope of the World

Matthew 28:18-20

October 14, 2019

Sermon Outline

Theme & Goal:

Jesus Christ is making you his D _____ who make D _____, who make D _____, & who make D ... to C _____ the world.

1. Jesus Christ claims to be the H _____ of the world.
And He is changing the world through Y _____.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

2. A disciple of Jesus Christ is a person who, having been I _____ by His G _____, joins Him in His M to M _____ Jesus.

3. Disciples of Jesus Christ D _____ themselves to:

- SCRIPTURE: to K _____ Jesus!
- PRAYER: to M _____ Jesus!
- GENEROSITY: to S _____ Jesus!
- COMMUNITY: To B _____ with Jesus!
- SENT-OUT: to G _____ with Jesus!
- MOVEMENT: to M _____ Jesus!

Application

1. How do you want to be remembered by at your funeral?

Now talk to Jesus...

Soul Food Day 1

The Goodnews of Jesus Christ is a Movement

Scripture

Acts 8:1–8

1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

God used the persecution to turn the church into an entire community of providers, so absolutely everybody was in mission.

In Chapter 7 we learn about Stephen, who was the very first Christian martyr, who died, was executed, stoned to death for preaching the gospel. In verse 1 of Chapter 8 we see Paul was there. Saint Paul would later be converted, but there was something about what he saw in Stephen.

In verse 3 we're told Saul began to be the active leader of a persecution. He was trying to destroy the church. As a result, even though verse 1 says the apostles stayed in Jerusalem, the apostles sort of went underground. Everybody else, all the lay people, had to flee for their lives, and they were scattered. The persecution's effect was actually to strengthen the church, to spread the church, and to spread the gospel.

Verse 4 says, "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." That was everybody, all lay people, everybody but the apostles. The word preached is not the word you and I think of. When you and I think of the word preached, you think of somebody publicly speaking to a group. This word is actually the word **evangelize**, and what we're told is everybody evangelized. Here is what happened.

At the church in Jerusalem, there was great preaching. It grew because people brought their friends to hear the great preaching. Then the persecution happened, and they were pushed out. Now we're told they took what they had learned from their teachers and preachers, and they began to gossip the gospel, share the gospel, and to counsel their friends with the gospel ... they began to **evangelize**. Everybody did. They took what they had, and they began to do it themselves.

The church is not supposed to be a body of people with a small number of providers or ministers and everybody else just kind of coming in being customers. God used the persecution to turn the church into an entire community of providers, so absolutely everybody was in mission. Everybody was evangelizing. Everybody was embodying the gospel, sharing the gospel, teaching the gospel, gossiping the gospel just from person to person.

Everybody was evangelizing.

Application

- What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?

- What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged?
- What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?
- Now talk to Jesus...

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Soul Food Day 2

Jesus Blesses You To Be A Blessing In His movement.

Scripture

Genesis 12:1-5

1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.[a]

3 I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."[b]

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

Jesus wants to bless you that you may be a blessing in His movement.

God comes to Abraham and says, "I want to bless you. I want to come near to you. I want to bring you in close to me. I want to be intimate with you. I want to give you my love." Isn't that wonderful? Wow! That's what we want. Then he says in the same sentence, "I want to bless you that you may be a blessing." God never calls you radically in without sending you radically out. He never calls you in and blesses you and fills your heart with love except to make you to be a blessing, to send you out to others. That's the reason why he says to Abraham, "I'm going to really bless you. Now get out!" God says, "I'm going to bless you. I'm going to love you. Now get out! Get out of Ur of the Chaldees. Get out of your country. Get out of your culture. Get out of your comfort zone." That's the paradigm.

God used the persecution, in Acts 8, to send out the people so everybody became a person in mission, one commentator on the book of Acts says to notice it was not because of some mission plan that was approved and put into action by the leaders of the church that this great expansion happened. It was ordinary believers taking the opportunity to share the message wherever they went. The apostles became the stabilizing, verifying, and unifying element in a mission that moved to new areas and groups without their planning or control. That is a movement. In a bureaucracy, people at the top completely control everything, but in a movement where everybody owns the mission, everybody is participating in it, what happens is, even though you still need leaders, the apostles were stabilizing, verifying, and unifying.

Yet there was a spontaneity about the church. All kinds of new initiatives bubbled up all over the place. The apostles didn't send Philip to Samaria in Acts 8. He went. What happens is God uses the persecution to turn his church into a movement in which everybody is in mission, in which everybody is initiating. That's actually a big part of what God is calling us to be.

Most of the time most churches that get renewed, most Christian communities that get renewed and turned from a kind of fat-and-happy institution into a dynamic movement in which everybody owns the vision, usually it happens through trouble. It usually happens through persecution. It usually happens

through something very bad. It's very rare for a community to voluntarily seek it. Is this what Jesus wants you and mosaicHouse Church to in Edmonton?

God uses the persecution to turn his church into a movement in which everybody is in mission.

Application

- What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
- What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged?
- What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?
- Now talk to Jesus...

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Soul Food Day 3

We Are Called to Serve Our City

Scripture

Acts 8:1–8

1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

Jeremiah 29:4-7

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

If you want your community and your faith to grow, then care about the city.

Notice everybody is scattered. Acts 8:1 says they were scattered. And verse 4 says they were scattered. In the Bible that's significant because when the people of God are scattered or when they are dispersed into dispersion, urban ministry, city ministry becomes very important.

In the Old Testament when the Babylonians conquered Israel, conquered Judah, what we see is just like here in Acts 8 the Jews were scattered away from Jerusalem, and they come to a pagan city, Babylon, which was just as filled with people they didn't like as Samaria.

You can read about this in Jeremiah 29. The Jews were scattered away from Jerusalem. They were put into a big pagan city, Babylon, and then God tells them counterintuitively to seek the joy of the city. He tells the Jews, “I want you to seek the peace and prosperity and shalom of Babylon and pray for it, for if it prospers, you prosper. Your community will prosper if you pour yourself out in deeds of service and seek the prosperity and the peace of the city where you are.”

It's actually common sense. Here's what God is saying. He's saying to us the same thing he said to the Jews. He says, “If you love the city, if you pour yourself out for the city, if you seek the good of the city, how much of a better witness could there be to show the city your God is God? If you want your community and your faith to grow, then care about the city.”

Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Application

- What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?

- What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged?
- What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?
- Now talk to Jesus...

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Soul Food Day 4

Jesus Is Sending Us to Evangelize the Cities to Reach the World.

Scripture

Acts 8:1–8

1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

Disciples of Jesus ministered in the cities, and automatically the gospel got into the lifeblood of dozens and dozens of national groups. It spread to the nations.

Paul invested his life in major cities, Antioch, Rome, Ephesus and in influential epicentres of the Ancient world. He went to the cities. He ministered in the cities, and automatically the gospel got into the lifeblood of dozens and dozens of national groups. It spread to the nations. You go to the city to reach the nations. For when you go to the city, that's how you have an impact in art, politics, legal profession and all spheres of the society and the world. Because Christians were inordinately focused on cities all during the first two or three centuries of their history, by the year AD 300 over half the populations of the Greco-Roman cities were Christian, but the countryside was pagan. The word pagan means a man of the country or a farmer. The farmers, the people in the country, were pagans, and the people in the cities were Christians. As the city goes, whatever has captured the city, that's where the culture is going. That's the reason why that brutal old pagan culture was displaced by Christianity, because people went to the cities.

Do you see the importance of city ministry? Jesus says, "Take the gospel to every creature." That means you have to have Christians everywhere there are people. You have to have churches everywhere there are people. What Jesus is saying is you need Christians every place. Over the next 150 years at least, massive numbers of people are moving into the great cities. About 150 years ago or more at this point, what happened was the rural areas of Europe reached their carrying capacity, and people began streaming into the cities. The first great mega-cities of the world were the European cities. They became huge. The same thing is happening now in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. What is happening now is the cities of most of the world are growing enormously in size. Somebody says, basically, with the number of people moving to cities there's a new Bangkok, as it were, formed every three months. Do you know what that means? What it means is 8 or 9 million people are moving into cities like every three months in the world. Over the next 150 years millions of people are moving into cities, which means in most of the world the cities are growing in size. In all of the world because of technologies, cities are growing in influence.

In the next 100 years most human beings are going to be moving into cities, and the church must know much about ministering in cities.

Application

- What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?

- What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged?
- What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?
- Now talk to Jesus...

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Soul Food Day 5

Jesus Is Passionate About Urban Ministry

Scripture

Acts 8:1–8

1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

The Bible is not just about various principles and things you have to believe or do in order to be blessed by God.

No, the Bible is about Jesus Christ and how he came to earth to rescue us and to save us by his grace

The Risen Christ is going into the cities. Hence, we have to be good at urban ministry. It's incredibly important, but here we also see in verses 5–8 what exactly we need to be effective. There are three marks of urban ministry.

A. Word.

Look at verse 5. "Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there." That's word ministry. That word proclaim is the word for preach. It's the word for public proclamation, public teaching of the Bible, except notice what it says. He preached the Christ. He knew what the Bible is about. The Bible is not just about various principles and things you have to believe or do in order to be blessed by God. No, the Bible is about Jesus Christ and how he came to earth to rescue us and to save us by his grace. First of all, we see Philip did not just show up in town and just do good deeds. He preached the Word. He called people to repentance. He showed people the life-transforming message of the gospel.

B. Deed.

Verse 7: "... evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed." Look at that. People were delivered spiritually from interior evil. On the other hand, it says paralytics and cripples were healed, which means people were getting help for their physical needs. Don't be distracted by the fact that this is miraculous, because that's not the only way to give people help for their physical needs. In fact, you can go to Acts 4, and you see it. You see a place where it says the early Christian community shared everything they had, so there was no poor person among them. All of Jerusalem saw the Christians taking care of people in need, helping them with their physical needs. Then it says, as a result, the apostles' preaching was received with great power. It makes perfect sense. It even says so in verse 6. It says, "When the crowds ... saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said." In short, people will listen to our words if they see our deeds. If they see us loving the city, if they see us meeting people's needs, if they see us caring about the city, they're going to listen to the Word.

C. Racial reconciliation.

The Samaritans and the Jews utterly hated each other. There was tremendous racial animosity between the Samaritans and the Jews.

One of the most amazing passages to me in the Bible is verse 5 because Philip is so unlike Jonah. Jonah? Yeah, the book of Jonah is about God calling a Jewish prophet to go and preach to Nineveh, to

the Assyrians, and there was great racial animosity between the Jews and the Assyrians. They were mortal enemies.

God says to Jonah, "I want you to go and preach to your mortal enemies. I want you to call them."

It's astounding but crucial for the Christian church, especially in cities where there's so much multi-ethnicity, to show the rest of the world how the gospel does destroy your superiority and your inferiority and, therefore, brings people together who outside in the rest of the world would not be able to be together, makes people friends who out in the rest of the world would never be friends.

Do you know how it begins? It begins very simply. You have to use the gospel on your heart. Our default mode is to be just like the world told us to be. "Go after people like you. Hang out with people like you." You have to catch yourself, and you have to start to reach across the barrier and use the gospel and make friends with a brother or sister who is not like you. That's how it starts.

Unless we're able to show the world people getting along in here who can't get along out there, then we really haven't applied the gospel ourselves. Therefore, word, deed, and racial reconciliation are marks of effective urban ministry, which changes the world because it changes the city.

Application

- What did you hear? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?
- What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said? How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged?
- What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?
- Now talk to Jesus...

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For houseChurch material:

1. Have different readers read the Bible passage from 2 or more different translations.

2. Reflect & meditate between each reading

3. Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

4. Application

1. What did you hear during the reading? What did the Holy Spirit say to you?

2. What do you think and how do you feel about what the Holy Spirit said?
How do you feel comforted, convicted & challenged from the reading?

3. What does the Holy Spirit want you to do now?

4. Share any of the above discoveries with your houseChurch. Ask each other, "What is your nugget?"

5. Discussion Questions

- Jesus Christ claims to be the hope of the world. And He is changing the world through you."
- What do you think or feel about this definition of a disciple? "A disciple of Jesus Christ is a person who, having been transformed by His grace, joins Him in His movement to multiply Jesus. Jesus Christ is making you his disciples who make disciples, who make disciples, & who make disciples... to change the world."
- Disciples of Jesus Christ devote themselves to the following core values. Which ones of these are thriving at?
 - SCRIPTURE: to KNOW Jesus!
 - PRAYER: to MEET Jesus!
 - GENEROSITY: to SHOW Jesus!
 - COMMUNITY: To BELONG with Jesus!
 - SENT-OUT: to GO with Jesus!
 - MOVEMENT: to MULTIPLY Jesus!

Application

1. How do you want to be remembered by at your funeral?

Now talk to Jesus...