

Takin' it to the Streets
Week 1: "I am chosen, I am sent"
Pastor Peter Smith, 08-16-15

I'm beginning a mini-series today to help us understand some practical ways we can share Jesus with the people here in Federalsburg and Caroline County. We all have questions about sharing our faith: "How do I do it?" "What do I say?" "Do I *have to* share my faith?" We will look at these and more over the next few weeks. We will also have some special guests to help us unpack this topic.

Turn in your sermon notes to Matthew 28 and read with me:

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." -Matthew 28:18-20

This passage of the Bible is called the "Great Commission"

- We believe these are the last words Jesus said on earth
- They must have been filled with emotion, with conviction: his final thoughts to his followers
- For nearly 2,000 years they have changed the world in which we live

Some truths about following Jesus:

1. I have been chosen

"But you are the chosen race, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light. At one time you were not God's people, but now you are his people; at one time you did not know God's mercy, but now you have received his mercy."

-1 Peter 2:9-10, GNT

Ultimately this fact determines my value & worth

2. I have been sent

“Therefore Go and make disciples...”

Who does God send? Ordinary people

- You and me. Moms and dads. Students. Grandmas and Pop pops.
- Works in progress. Go figure!
- I don't know why...surely He could have had a better plan! Maybe Angels or something
- But listen: We are His Plan...there is no plan B!!

Foundations of being Sent by Jesus

1. We have a Mission

We are to go to people who don't know Jesus
We are to go to people who don't know Jesus
Jesus came for lost people...now we go in his name

People were wondering why Jesus was associating with sinners and bad people. He gave this answer:

“Jesus answered them, “It is the sick people who need a doctor, not those who are healthy. I have not come to ask good people to change. I have come to ask sinners to change the way they live.”
-Luke 5:31-32, ERV

2. We have a Message

- **Jesus is the Savior...receive Him!**
- **Love God, Love People, Make Disciples!**
- **We will always have a tension in our lives: we have found Jesus, and now we are to share Him / give Him away**
- **Our church and every church must remember we exist not only for our mutual growth and encouragement, but to make a difference in our world by inviting others to follow Jesus, too**

So we have been chosen and we have been sent with a Mission and Message. So what response is needed the most from us?

- Surely we need to go to school to learn more about Jesus!
- I must clean my life first and then Go!
- We must learn and memorize tons of bible verses....and then Go!
- What is really needed from us?
- I believe that

God is looking for my willingness to go

- Training is valuable, Bible memorization is needed, and a holy life is desired by God
- But willingness, desire, overrides all these things!
- Listen to a man in the OT, his name is Isaiah:

“Then I heard the Lord’s voice, saying, “Who can I send? Who will go for us?” So I said, “Here I am. Send me!” Then the Lord said, “Go and tell the people...” -Isaiah 6:8-9a, ERV

Isaiah confessed his sin in this passage. He wasn’t super holy! He didn’t have it all figured out. But he was willing, he was available for God

Listen:

- Moses stuttered, but was willing and God sent Him
- The early Apostles were fishermen, business people, ordinary people who were willing and God sent them

God is looking for our willingness and availability to go and tell others about Him. So,

Life’s ultimate question is this:

Will I go for God? Will you go for God?

We have a special guest with us today from a great church in town called Park Lane Church of God. Would you welcome Jane Matthews as she comes to share with a practical way she and others are being sent by God?