

Ministering to the World, Part 2

Key Verses:

Matthew 28:18-20 - *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. v.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 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."*

Objective:

The great commission found in Matthew 28 is a challenging call for disciple-making disciples of Jesus to go into every aspect of the world and advance the Kingdom of God. In this lesson, we hope to give some practical ways for Christ followers to win the lost and impact their society outside the walls of the church.

Sacred vs. Secular Myth

Historically, church work has been considered sacred and non-church work has been regarded as secular. This mindset has enabled many churches to grow while allowing our culture, for the most part, to remain under the influence of the devil. We need to see the battle differently. We must rethink our mission.

Most people in the church world believe the pinnacle of Kingdom service is becoming a full time pastor or missionary. They only see one sphere among all the other spheres of influence in our society. We are making a great mistake by drawing out the influencers in other spheres so they can serve in only one of the spheres (the Church).

We must join God in invading aspects of our culture to bring His life and transformation to every realm of our society.

Seven Spheres of Influence

- 1) Government - where evil is either restrained or endorsed
- 2) Education - where truths, or lies, about God and His creation are taught
- 3) Media - where information is interpreted through the lens of good or evil
- 4) Arts & Entertainment - where values and virtue are celebrated or distorted
- 5) Religion - where people worship God in spirit and truth or settle for a religious ritual
- 6) Family - where either a blessing or a curse is passed onto successive generations
- 7) Business - where people build for the glory of God or the glory of man

Disciple-making in the Marketplace

Matthew 5:14-16 - *You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. v. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. v. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

- 1) Connect with the lost and do not _____ yourself from them.
 - a) God wants to work where lost people gather.
 - b) The apostle Paul connected with unbelievers in order to bring them into the Kingdom.

He even participated in their _____ to reach them for Christ.

- i) The Unbelieving Jews

1 Corinthians 9:20 NLT - *... When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I*

could bring to Christ those who are under the law.

ii) The Unbelieving Gentiles

1 Corinthians 9:21 NLT - When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

iii) The Unbelievers Everywhere

1 Corinthians 9:22, 23 NLT - When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. v.23 I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

c) The apostle Paul did not separate his ministry from the workplace.

i) Paul was an _____ of ministry in the marketplace.

Acts 20:33-35 NLT - I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. v.34 You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me. v.35 And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ii) Working hard and living respectfully with others will open doors for _____.

1 Thessalonians 4:11 NLT - Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. v.12 Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.

iii) _____ is not helpful for the Kingdom.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-9 NLT - And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from all believers who live idle lives and don't follow the tradition they received from us. v.7 For you know

that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. v.8 We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. v.9 We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow.

Note: Here you see clear evidence that people wanted to leave the workplace and isolate themselves in a church setting. They wanted to huddle away and even depend on the church to feed them so they would not have to deal with the warfare in the workplace. Paul says this is contrary to our example.

2) Be a Kingdom influencer in your _____ and your _____.

Four Kingdom Qualities in the Marketplace:

a) The Quality of _____

- i) In the Bible, Bezalel was a man handpicked by God to perform an important work to design and build the Ark of the Covenant. He was also the first man described in Scripture as being filled with the Spirit of God.

Exodus 31:2-5 - See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, v.3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, v.4 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, v.5 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.

- ii) Daniel was another man who had an excellent spirit.

Daniel 6:3 - Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

Note: Because of his excellent spirit, he gained influence with the secular king and was promoted to rule over the entire kingdom.

- iii) The work of Christians should be excellent in every way because we have the Spirit of God operating in us.

b) The Quality of _____ and Ethics

Psalm 15:1-5 NLT - *Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? v.2 Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. v.3 Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. v.4 Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts. v.5 Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.*

c) The Quality of Extravagant _____ and _____

Everyone has a key to their heart. You will find that key when you commit to living in love towards people and obeying the voice of the Spirit as He directs you to extra effort service opportunities.

d) The Quality of _____ and _____

- i) The fourth attribute of an effective workplace witness is signs and wonders which demonstrate the power of God.
- ii) Mark 16:17, 18 - *And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; v.18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.*

3) Follow the disciple-making example of Jesus.

Disciple-making 101

a) Disciple-makers are _____ to people who are potential followers of Christ.

- i) There were many fishermen on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, so why did Jesus choose Peter, Andrew, James, and John? He was led to them!
- ii) Look for a person of peace.

(1) Luke 10:5-6 NASB - *Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house." If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.*

(2) In Luke 10:7 NASB Jesus said, "stay" with that person.

b) Disciple-makers _____ in people who are potential followers of Christ.

i) Jesus lived life with His disciples.

ii) He invested in prayer for them.

John 17:9 - *I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.*

c) Disciple-makers _____ people who are potential followers of Christ.

i) Jesus loved the ones who followed Him.

John 11:5 - *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.*

ii) Jesus loved the ones who struggled to follow Him.

Rich Young Man: Mark 10:21-22 - *And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." v.22 - Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*

iii) Jesus loved His disciples through His own painful situations.

John 13:1 - *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

REFLECT

1. Pastor exposed a myth with this statement: “Historically, church work has been considered sacred and non-church work has been regarded as secular.” Why is this a myth and what is the truth? How does this change your perspective?
2. Is the Holy Spirit laying “a person of peace” on your heart that is lost that you can reach for Christ? Who is it? What is your next step?
3. How do we work and fellowship with unbelievers without allowing their sinful lifestyle to negatively affect us? What safeguards need to be in place?
3. How do we work and fellowship with unbelievers without allowing their sinful lifestyle to negatively affect us?
4. Pastor taught that we can be a Kingdom influencer at work by following four Kingdom qualities. Discuss how the qualities of excellence, integrity & ethics, extravagant love & service, and signs & wonders work together to build your influence.
5. Be honest; are you isolating yourself from connecting with unbelievers in your sphere of influence? Why or why not?

ACT

Say out loud or write a prayer for God to open opportunities for you to make disciples in the marketplace. Consider these three things: 1) Start where you’re at, 2) Use what you have, and 3) Do what you can to influence people for the Kingdom.