

# Why Don't We Go?



## I Am Sent

**John 20:21**

I am sent...that is the series we are going to start and will be all this June. We are excited about the idea to explore the concept that we are sent. You saw a little snapshot of a video of various people from this church who have been called to go various places this summer with this reality that they are sent out. They are a missionary and will be sent out to go and proclaim the gospel, both here and there. I want to continue to pray for them this month and of course this whole year, just the idea of being sent. One of the guys on there was Caleb Staley, one of my really good friends. He is with our Malawi team that headed out this last week to go and do some work on the Hutchens' house. I got this text message picture from Kayla, who is Caleb's wife, (she sends this picture of him carrying two big totes) and says, "Kory, I need you to pray for Caleb because he is on the plane and it is delayed thirty minutes because of some staffing issues, but the bigger issue is he just saw the airline unload those two big totes he is carrying off the plane." That is never a good feeling when you are going on a trip and you are on the plane, it is getting ready to take off, and you see your luggage being taken off the plane. That is never a good sign. So immediately, I began to pray because I know what is in those two tubs: one hundred pounds worth of tools. See, Caleb is not just going to Africa on a vacation or as a tourist; he is going on a mission. He's been sent out for a specific purpose and that is to finish the Hutchens' house along with a team. So he has a very clear mission and it involves those tubs, the tools that he is taking, so I just stopped what I was doing and began to pray. We had a text going with various people that are praying for Caleb that the

luggage gets there. We're praying because this is important; this is urgent. We are still in limbo. We still don't know if the luggage is going to get there by tomorrow, so if you would all collectively pray for the luggage to get there so they can do the work that they've been called to do. The reason she sent out a text message for us to pray is because what is in those totes are important because what he is doing is important. He is actually called to do something to go and help finish a house so the Hutchens can move in and plant churches and raise up pastors all throughout Malawi. It is important work.

I just want to throw a scenario. Let's pretend like Caleb gets back from his being sent to Africa. He gets back. He's left his wife and kids here for almost two weeks. Let's just say he gets back, Kayla meets him at the airport, and they haven't talked since this original text message. They reunite and they are excited and Kayla says, "Did you ever get your bags?" He says, "No, I don't think so. I don't remember if I got those or not." She is like, "Well, did you finish the house?" Caleb says, "Oh, the house! Man, I forgot about that! I forgot all about the house, but let me tell you what we did. It was so cool. We got to hike this mountain. I've got some really cool pictures. We got to hike all the way to the top of this mountain; it was beautiful! Then, we went on a safari. Have you seen a real lion and a real giraffe? I got to see one. I got my picture with it; it was so cool. Then we had a couple of days where we didn't really know what to do, so we went to this lake and got to fish and swim. Oh honey, it was awesome! These past two weeks I have done some incredible things!" What do you think Kayla's reaction is going to be if that is what Caleb says when he gets back? I don't think she's going to be very happy. Does everybody agree? She's not going to be happy if Caleb comes back and says we forgot about the house but we did a lot of other stuff. She isn't going to be mad because of the other stuff they did. There is nothing wrong with hiking and going to the lake or going on a safari. There is nothing wrong with those things. What she is going to be upset about is the things he didn't do. What we as a church would be really sad for the team we sent out is if they actually didn't do the one thing they were supposed to do, which was finish a house. I don't think that is going to happen. I think when the team gets back they are not going to forget the mission, but I just want to ask us as

a church. Are we guilty of actually doing that? Are we guilty of forgetting the thing that Jesus told us to do? If we have been sent out by Jesus for a specific purpose, imagine when Jesus comes back or when we meet Him face to face and He says, "How did the mission go?" Oh, the mission...I forgot about that, but let me tell you what I did. I had a great job. I had a great family. I went on some great trips. I was in a really great Sunday school class. I learned some really good truths. I learned a whole lot about you and it was really exciting. Now Jesus is not going to be mad at those things because those are good things. But I think He would say, what about the mission? What about the thing I left you to do, the thing of going and making disciples, going and sharing My Word to all the peoples? What about that? I just wonder if some of us have disconnect the reality of being saved with the reality of being sent, because those two things go together. If you're saved, you've been sent. You've been sent on a mission to go and make disciples, so what we want to do is make sure we haven't forgotten that. So when we see Jesus face to face, we don't tell Him all the things we did, forgetting the one thing He left us to do. It would be really embarrassing if Caleb get back and forgets to actually build the house. It will be really embarrassing if we meet Jesus face to face and we forget to do the one thing He asked us to do, which is to, as He was sent by the Father, even so He sent us to do the work that the Father left Him to accomplish. So we are going to really talk about one main verse this morning. We are going to hone in on John 20:21. I want to read the verse to you, but then we will read the whole Scripture in its entirety.

## **Scripture**

***"Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."***

Just think about that...as the Father has sent me. Think about Jesus, how God sent Him on mission into the world to save the world. As the Father has sent Me, even so. There is a connection. There is a connection to Jesus' mission and our mission. Just as I have been sent, even so I am sending you. That is what we are going to talk about this month in this series called, I Am Sent. Craig Ott talks about the three C's of a kingdom minded church. The three C's are that we have a great Calling, a great

Command, and a great Commission. That is what we are going to look at over this month, this idea that we have a great calling. That is really our life, a life to worship God. We have a great command and that is our love, our love of God and neighbor. We have a great commission and that is about our labor. That is about going, sharing, witnessing, and making disciples. So this life, love, and labor are really what we should be doing if we are a great commission, if we are a kingdom-minded church. Those are the things we are going to hone in on this month, this idea that we are sent and because of that, we are going to live a life of worship, love, and labor because we have a mission that Jesus left us to accomplish. I want to read the surrounding verses in John 20, and we are going to walk through this text. We will begin with verse 19, but the event before this is the resurrection has just happened. It's that same day, but it is now nightfall.

***"On the evening of that day, (the day Jesus arose from the dead; that was a pretty important day) the first day of the week, (there is something great happening) the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."***

(Prayer)

Father God, I pray that You would help us see this great mission that You have sent us to accomplish, that just as You sent Your Son, Jesus, to redeem the world, Jesus has now sent us to carry on that mission of telling people the good news that their sins can be forgiven, that they can be welcome into a kingdom where Jesus is king and they can rule and reign with Him forever. We thank you and we praise You for Your Word and we pray that you would work it in our hearts and that You would send us out

on mission as we think about these things. We pray this in Jesus good name, amen.

It is kind of strange how this text starts out. It is almost a little shocking. We get this news that this big day has happened, the resurrection has happened. You get this sense that if there is a moment where the disciples should be ready to go charge the gates of hell, this should be the moment. They have just seen their Lord and Savior crucified, now risen from the grave. They have a risen Messiah. They are hearing the news of it; some of them have actually seen Him. Not all yet, but they have seen an empty tomb, they have a report that He has risen from the dead, and there should be some excitement. But what do we find? The text starts off with locked doors. They are not going out, they aren't sharing, and they aren't telling people what Jesus just accomplished. Instead, they are huddled around with their doors locked and they are in fear. They are in fear of the Jews. Why would they be in fear? There is a pretty obvious reason. It is because the culture they are in is very hostile to Jesus and His message. That is very evident. They just watched Jesus get crucified, so they are followers of Jesus so the natural extension would be we are also probably going to be crucified if we continue to follow Jesus. What happened to Him is probably going to happen to us, so they are hiding with their doors locked because they are in a culture that doesn't love Jesus. They are in a culture that is actually hostile to Jesus, and that leads them to fear because their eyes are on their circumstances. Their eyes are on the Jews. Their eyes are on the people around them that might want harm from them.

I think some of us are in the exact same place this morning. We are fearful. We're afraid to engage in the mission of God. We're afraid to speak about our faith to our co-workers. We're afraid to speak about our faith to our children. We're afraid when we go places and we are in the circles that we hang out with, the social groups that we have, and the sports that we play. We're afraid to be identified as a Christian or to speak about the Lord Jesus because we know that we're living in a culture that is also hostile to Jesus and His message. It's ok to be religious, let's just don't talk about it, just don't- tell anyone, and don't show that anybody else might be in error

for what they believe. We are living in a culture where if you are outspoken about following Jesus and getting into conversations about Jesus, there might be some ridicule, some pushback. We see the wars on social media and all the things that happen all around us, and we are fearful to speak, fearful to go for the sake of Jesus. That is exactly where the disciples were. They have the doors locked, and I think that's our temptation. Our temptation is we have this mandate to go, but our temptation is to stay and lock the doors because inside it is safe. Inside it feels good. Inside it is predictable. Inside we believe the same things, we're all on the same accord, and there is no risk. There is no danger. Locked doors mean safety and comfort, and that is where the disciples are because engaging in God's mission, connecting your life to God's mission, means you could lose status, friends, even a job perhaps. There are serious risks there, so the obvious answer is to just lock the doors, stay inside, and just be quiet. Forget the mission and just go live your life.

That is where we find the disciples. So what happens? Jesus actually comes in and replaces their fear with His peace. That is what Jesus does. Notice what happens in verses 19-20. "And Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' When He had said this He showed them His hand and His side." So Jesus comes in; they are fearful. They've got the doors locked. We saw our Savior get crucified. We think that might happen to us, now we're fearing death. We're fearing a cross, so we need to lock the doors and stay inside. We're trembling. We're afraid, and then all of a sudden, Jesus walks in and says "Peace be with you." He could feel their trembling hands. He could see the scared looks in their face, and He comes in and says here's what I'm giving to you. I'm giving you peace. You don't have to be afraid. What is His reason for them not being afraid? He says look at my hands, look at my side; there are nail hole in my hands. There is a spear hole in my side. Look at the scar. I was killed, but I'm back alive. In other words, the one thing you fear the most, disciples, is being killed. Guess what; it happened to me. They killed me and I'm doing just fine. What happened is I actually killed death it its grave, as the song says. I arose from the grave, so you no longer have to fear death. The worst thing that could happen to you, someone takes your life, cannot separate you from my love or the Father's love because I've conquered

death, I've conquered your sin. So the one thing you're afraid of, death, is the one thing you don't have to be afraid of anymore because I'm always going to be with you. I'm always going to be connected with you because I defeated your death, so if you die, you will live with me forever. You don't have to lock the doors. You don't have to stay inside. You can go out and charge the darkness with your light, knowing that the worst thing that could happen to you will not end you. The worst thing that could happen to you, death, cannot separate me from you. So He is removing their fear and giving them peace. That is what we need. We need the very peace of Jesus, knowing that the worst thing that could happen to us, losing a friend, losing a job, losing status, losing whatever, losing an argument, maybe even losing our life, that all of those things that we fear, none of those things can keep us from Jesus. None of those things can separate us from Him, so we don't need to fear those things. Jesus has conquered our death through His resurrection, so we don't have to have fear, we can have peace. We can go in knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God because we have our faith in Jesus. Then notice their fear actually turns to joy. Notice what it says in verse 20 about their fear turning to joy, "Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord Jesus." They were glad. So remember, they're fearful, they have the doors locked, they're panicked, Jesus comes in and says I'm going to give you peace, here are my hands, here is my side, I rose from the dead, I've got this, I'm the sovereign Lord, I conquered sin and death, and all of a sudden, when they saw Jesus, the fear that they had, the locked doors they were in, now they had gladness. They had joy. They were excited because they saw Jesus. That is what we need. We need for our fears to be calmed with the peace of Jesus. But then the peace of Jesus when we see Him and understand Him, then all of a sudden, our fear is turned to joy. See, they were fearful when their eyes were on the Jews, when they were looking at the hostile culture, when they were thinking about a cross they had fear. That's what their eyes were looking at, so it led them to fear, but Jesus walks in and says hey, look at me. Put your eyes on me. When they looked at Jesus, they didn't have fear; they had joy. For us, if we are going to go on mission, if we are going to be sent out, we can't look around us at all the things that are happening. We can't look at our

culture and always think the sky is falling and be panicked and run into a corner. We can't look at everyone who is saying various things; we need to look to Jesus because when we look to Jesus, our fear will be turned to joy. We will have His joy and His peace, which will lead us to actually accomplish His mission.

So, what is the mission? What is it that He gave us to do? Notice what He says in the text in verse 21, "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'" He repeats that twice, peace. Don't freak out. It's ok. Have peace. I know you're panicked, I know you're in fear, but I want to remind you again, have peace, peace be with you. And then He says this, "As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." Here, we have that statement that we are really going to walk through this whole month, the idea that as the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus is sending us. This message shouldn't have been new to the disciples. When Jesus said this the disciples should have had an 'oh yeah' moment, "I forgot; why are we in a room with the doors locked?" This should be obvious because from the very beginning when Jesus first called the disciples, what did He say? Come follow Me and I will make you fishers of men. So following includes fishing, right off the bat. And then as we walk through all of the gospels, there are various moments where Jesus actually sends them out, like Matthew 10:5 "Go and proclaim the kingdom of God." He actually sends them in groups and in pairs. In various places, as they are seeing Him spread the kingdom, He tells them to go do the same. You go and tell people about Me and My kingdom. So there is this connection between Jesus' mission and their mission. From the very beginning, the disciples were called to connect their life to God's mission, so they should have known this instinctively, but they have already forgotten it. Like, what happened? There was a cross and a resurrection; I guess we're just going to hole up together. So Jesus is coming to remind them; no, remember I told you all along, following includes fishing. Being saved includes being sent. Those things go together, so He is reminding as the Father sent Me, now I am sending you.

So I want us to think first about the Father sending Jesus. As he says this, we look at the gospel of John. Over forty times, Jesus is talked about, about being sent. This idea of being sent is one of the motifs of John's



gospel. This idea that Jesus has been sent from the Father, Jesus talked about it often. He knew He was sent, and that is why He lived a sent life. If you know you are sent, then you will live a sent life. Those two are connected. He really believed the Father sent Me so I can't just do whatever I want. No, I'm going to do what the Father has sent Me to do. The verb here, 'as the Father has sent Me,' is in the perfect tense. It means it happened in the past, but it is ongoing. I love what DA Carson says what the language is speaking of is Jesus is an ongoing state of 'sentness.' Jesus says as the Father has sent Me, now I send you. He is not saying now my mission is over, now it is your turn. Jesus is not stopping over His mission and turning it over to the church. No, what Jesus is saying is as I am continually being sent, as I'm continuing to live out my mission, I'm doing it now through you, through the church. So Jesus, the sovereign Lord is accomplishing His mission to the world through us. That is why as you look at the book of Acts, we often call it the Acts of the Apostles; that is a really bad name because it is not the Acts of the Apostles. It is the acts of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in the apostles. The story of acts is what Jesus is doing from His throne through the Holy Spirit with His church. So Jesus is an ongoing state of 'sentness.' He is still on mission, but now He is including us in this. As I have been sent, so now I am sending you.

Just a couple of questions. If Jesus has been sent, where has He been sent to? He actually answers that when He prays to the Father in John 17:18. He says, "As You sent Me into the world..." So Jesus has been sent into the world. He talks about the world a lot. The world is a place marked with darkness and He is the light. So He is light coming into a dark world. So where was Jesus sent to? He has been sent to the world. But what was He sent for? If His location is the world, that is where He is sent to, then what has He been sent for? If you look at Luke 19:10, it says, "The Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." Why did He come? Why has He been sent? To save the world, to save and to seek the lost, that is why Jesus came. That is what Jesus is doing. So here we have Jesus, He has been sent to the world with a mission, and that is to save the world, to go, to save, and to seek the lost. That is Jesus mission, and we saw Him do that from His birth all the way to His death and resurrection. What is He doing? He is going on mission. He is accomplishing the Father's will. He is seeking

and He is saving the lost. So we have Jesus' mission, what did He do? He went to the world to save the world.

Now notice what Jesus says in that key verse we are looking at, "Even so." That word, even so, connects Him to us. Here is my mission, God the Father sent Me to the world to save the world, so that is what I came to do. That is what I accomplished, now even so. So take all of that, take what God the Father sent Me to do, and now apply it to you. Even so, in that same way, the connection between you and Jesus, here's the connection, "Even so I am sending you." He is connecting your life with His mission. He is saying the things that I did now I want you to do. So the obvious question would be ok, where have we been sent to? Where was Jesus sent to? The world. So where have we been sent to? We have been sent to the world. Now you might think that is kind of strange because we are already in the world. Jesus came from Heaven to planet Earth. That is how He came into the world, but what about us? Jesus connects Him coming into the world to us in that same prayer we looked at in John 17. Here is what it says, "As you sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." So here we have the gospel is about Jesus, His death, burial, and resurrection, it actually takes you out of the world. You were in the kingdom of darkness following the course of the world, but when you become a believer, you're ripped out of the world and you're put into the kingdom of God. You're now in the kingdom of light. You're no longer a sinner; you're a saint of God. There is this separation. You're a holy one, a called one, a beloved one, a loved by God one. There is this separation between you now and the world. What happens often is we have this separation and now we just want to hang out in the kingdom of the light. We want to hang out in the church. We want to be with our people because we now share this worldview and this salvation. Jesus says no, as the Father sent me into the world, now I am going to sent you into the world, not just to group together, not just to stay in locked doors, and not just to be with one another. Those things are important to be with one another, but He also says I have sent you out into the world. I have sent you in dark places, why, because you have light. What darkness needs is for light to shine upon it. That is what Jesus did. He came as light into darkness and now He's sending us as light into dark places. So where are

we sent? We are sent to the world. Do you know what that means? That means literally everywhere you go is a location for missions. You don't have to board a plane. I love what Michael Goheen says. He says that missions is the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world. I think that is a great definition for missions. It is the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world. I love that because do you know who is included in the whole church? The whole church. All of us. It's not just our Malawi team. It's not just the people in the video that say I'm going to Arizona, I'm going to Hong Kong; it is you and me. We might not be boarding a plane tonight, but we are going to go in some area that is marked by the world and darkness tonight and tomorrow, and as we go, we are part of the whole church that is supposed to take the whole gospel to the whole world. Every space that you walk into tomorrow is part of that whole world, so tomorrow you are a sent one. Today you are a sent one taking the whole gospel to the whole world. Everywhere you go your light that is going into darkness.

If that is what we are sent to, the world, then what are we sent for? What are we sent to actually accomplish? Remember, Jesus says even so, I am sending you, the same thing I did is what I want you to do. So Jesus came to the world for what purpose? To save the world. To redeem the world. That is the same thing that we are called to do. We are called to save the world. Now, it is in a different way. Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus hung on a cross as our substitute and rose again on the third day to actually save sinners. Jesus did that. We can't do that. We're not called to go to a cross and die and rise again. We can't do that. We're powerless to do that. We can't save anyone, but here's what we're called to do. We're called to share the message of what Jesus did. We're called to share the person of Jesus. We're the ones who get to tell others about the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. So we save the world, not by dying; we save the world through living and proclaiming the good news of Jesus to those around us. There is this connection. I am sent means connecting your life to God's mission. Jesus accomplished salvation, now we get to go tell people about the finished work of Jesus. We get to tell people about the relationship they can have with Jesus Christ, this even so. So He gives us this mission; as the Father

sent Me, now I'm sending you. But notice what He does next. He doesn't leave us alone. Remember, Jesus is in an ongoing state of sentness, so He's engaging in the mission with us, but then He also sends us His very presence. We are going to have the very presence of God with us as we accomplish the mission of God.

Notice what He says when He talks about the Holy Spirit, "...and when He had said this." What did He just say? As the Father sent Me, then so I'm sending you. I can imagine that was another fear point for the disciples. *I don't know; hold on. Aren't you going to stay with us? Aren't you going to be with us? Can't you live with us forever, because we can do this with you, but without you, we can't? We're going to stay in this locked room. We can't do what you've called us to do.* I imagine they go right in back to fear mode. Just as the Father sent Me, I'm sending you. *No, we can't go.* He says I know. I know. Notice what He says next, "...and when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them receive the Holy Spirit." What is He saying? You're not going to be left alone. You're not going to do this alone. That was a tricky statement, and I don't have time to get into the complexities of it, but most of the scholarly work that I read this week all pretty much agreed that this is symbolic for what is going to happen at Pentecost. So this is symbolic. He is saying I'm going to breathe on you. I'm going to give you the Holy Spirit and that actually comes true on Pentecost when they are filled with the Holy Spirit and they go out as His church to spread the mission on God. But what we want to lean into right now is this idea that we are not left alone. Jesus gave us His very presence, the Holy Spirit living inside of us, who is with us as we go and share the message of Jesus. We're not alone! God is with us. He's working in us and through us to accomplish what He has called us to do. So He reminds us this isn't something you're doing alone. No, I'm still in a state of sentness, and I'm also sending the Holy Spirit to be with you every step of the way.

Then He reminds us of the purpose. So we have His presence, then He reminds us of the purpose. Again, another tricky statement, He says, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them. If you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." It is a

statement of forgiveness. Why does He bring up forgiveness? I think He wants to remember what the mission is truly about. Jay Marsh will say this forgiveness language is simply, practically, the result of if they are going to preach the gospel or not. That is what He's trying to get at. What does this mean? They don't have power to forgive. Only God does. So what is this forgiveness, if they forgive, people are forgiven, if they withheld, they are not forgiven? Jesus is saying if you don't take this message, people can't be forgiven. If you don't go and share, people will die in their sins. There is a purpose to why you are going and that is people are dying in their sins. You have the message to go and save people from their sins. So if you withhold it, they are going to die in their sins. If you tell it, then they have a change to repent and believe. So go. Go tell people the good news.

I was in class a couple of weeks ago, and one the things we did was look demographically at where we live, where are churches are and just do some statistical research on the lostness of our area. I had never really thought deeply about Marshall and Calloway counties, and how many lost or unchurched people there are in our area. So I was thinking maybe a few but most people probably wake up and come to church on Sunday morning. Then we went to actually dig into some research and we went to a site called ARDA, which does a lot of religious data. It talks about the amount of people that are in church and aren't in church. Marshall County has almost 15,000 people who will be in a protestant church, but almost 13,000 people are not in any form of church whatsoever in Marshall County. In Marshall County, 13,000 people are without hope in God. They are dead in their sins. They might not even know the gospel. Calloway County doesn't get any better. There are a little more people in church as there are a little more people, but 15,000 people are completely unclaimed by any church, that we can say are probably lost. They don't know Jesus. They are going to die and go to hell. So right now in our little area, almost 30,000 people don't know Jesus and don't come to church. Jesus says if you don't go and tell them...I've sent you. I've sent you on mission, and if you don't go and offer them forgiveness, they can't find forgiveness outside of the gospel. So there's this sense of urgency right at the end. You've got the Holy Spirit, and it is not just to go have fun. No, the Holy Spirit is about forgiveness of sins. It's about the gospel that I've given you.

I died and I rose again to save sinners. Now you need to go and tell people. You need to go and be light in darkness. So church, we can no longer just think we live in a culture where everybody knows Jesus and everybody goes to church. That is the raw data and that was in 2010, and I'm just guessing that the last eight years probably the number hasn't declined. It has probably gone up.

So what is our response as a church going to be? Are we going to really believe that we are sent? Or are we just going to keep the doors locked and hoard what we have and enjoy the safety and the comfort of not opening our mouths. Why don't we go? Why don't we tell? I think all of us, and I'm raising my hand, would say I don't share the gospel enough. I don't talk about Jesus enough. My hand is going up. I'm a guy who doesn't talk about Jesus enough. Why is that? Why don't we share the gospel? I just want to explore that question for a moment. I think one of the reasons is because we believe a small gospel. Here's what I mean. What we often believe is the gospel is about my sin, and that is really it. The gospel, Jesus died and rose again for my sin, I believe in Him, and I'm saved, so that is check marked. That's the end of it. That's the gospel. I'm saved. Yes, I'm going to Heaven, and yes, that is a huge part of it, but that's a small gospel. There's a whole other part to the gospel, and that is if you are saved, you are also sent. Jesus didn't just come to save you from your sin so you could go live a really good life. He saved you from your sins to pull you into His kingdom, to pull you into His story so that you could be leverage to go and to share His gospel with those around you. He has called you out of darkness into light so you can share His mission, so you can be sent out to reach the nations.

I think the disciples suffered from the exact same thing. They forgot the cross is also about missions. It's not just about my personal salvation from sin. We see that in John 21. It's a strange chapter. You would think John would end in chapter 20 with the resurrection and Great Commission; let's go. In the next chapter, what happens? Peter says *hey, do you want to go fishing? Yeah, I guess, I don't have anything else to do. Alright, let's go fish.* It's like, What? Ok, hold on. Jesus just died, rose again, said I'm giving you my presence, the Holy Spirit, to go preach, there's forgiveness,

I'm giving you this mission, God has sent Me, now I'm sending you, and the next morning Peter is like, *man, I'm kind of bored. There's really nothing to do. I guess we'll go fishing.* What? Peter, did you not hear anything that Jesus just told you? You've been sent out as a fisherman of men, but they are still missing it. They are like I'm glad of the cross, I'm glad I've got Jesus, now let's go fish and live a good life. So Jesus comes back to them and yells at them, gets their attention, they have a great catch, they come back and they have this breakfast. They are cooking fish together, and what does Jesus say? *Hey Peter, do you love me? Yeah, I love You. Then why are you fishing? Why are you out in a boat doing what you used to do? I've called you into something greater. What I need you to do is to go feed my lambs. What I need you to do is feed my sheep. What I need you to do is to go and live on mission and proclaim the gospel. That's what I need you to do.*

It was this forgetfulness. The disciples were like, *oh yeah, that's right. That's what we're supposed to do!* It is painfully slow how the disciples get this, that being saved means you're also sent. I think for us, we sometimes are painfully slow at getting this, that being saved means you're also sent. The two are connected. If you've been rescued from your sins by Jesus, then you've been called into His mission. You've been called to go and actually tell others the good news of Jesus Christ. We're supposed to follow Jesus, we're supposed to fish for people, and we are supposed to feed people. Evangelism and discipleship are part of the plan. So what can we practically do? I just want to give you action steps in the last two minutes.

1. Believe you are sent. We've got bracelets for you to grab as you walk out that say, I Am Sent. Go to the table, grab a bracelet, and put it on. We want you to believe this statement that I am sent. I am a missionary to all the places I will go today, tomorrow, and the rest of my life. I'm a missionary to spread the good news of Jesus. That's a lifestyle of worship. That's loving God, loving people. That's being about the Great Commission, laboring for the sake of the gospel, which is what we are going to cover for the next few weeks. The first thing is to internalize it, really believe I am sent. God sent Jesus, Jesus has now sent me. I am sent, so like the imaginary story of

Caleb coming back from a plane ride, when Jesus comes back I don't want to say I did everything else but the one thing you told me to do. I'm going to believe that I'm sent.

2. Pray. Just begin to pray. We have a map that we have put on the wall that says I Am Sent, and it's got the whole world. I just want you to stop by there, look at the faces and names, and begin to pray for some of the people who've been sent out. We will add to that if you know of people in this church that are going, if you're going somewhere, email us a photo and where you're going and we will put it on the wall because we want to pray for those who are going. I also think, not just sending out people on airplanes, but we are sending each other out across our streets into our neighborhoods and workplaces because we, as a church, are sent.
3. Go. Actually go and try to get in gospel conversations with people this week, connecting your life with God's mission. One way we will help you do this is on Wednesday nights we are going to make it, "I am sent Wednesdays." We've got our youth and college students doing some amazing things in the mornings with Hangin' @ Hilldale and other outreaches around the community of Hardin. At night, we are going to do GoSoccer with the kids using soccer to proclaim the gospel. But we need you to come because there will be parents who are there, and we are going to serve a meal and have a Bible study in the community center to try to share the gospel. We also need some of you to show up because we're going to get in cars with a bunch of light bulbs, and we are going to go around the community and knock on doors and say, hey, can we put a lightbulb in your house. Do you have any lights that are out? We want to go put lightbulbs in your house because Jesus is the light of the world, and we love Jesus and we just want to help light up your house. Do you have any questions about the gospel? We're with Hardin Baptist Church and we would love to just pray with you. We're just going to go all throughout the community of Hardin with a simple thing, lightbulbs, and try to get in a gospel conversation because as God sent Jesus, Jesus is now sending us. So come. You can be involved in that going team, team that stays and cooks, or the team that does



the Bible study. There are a lot of things that are going to happen on Wednesdays, so we want to encourage you to come as we, as a church, go on mission for our local community here through the month of June, and also as you go on mission in your community, in your neighborhood, at your work, this idea that I am sent.

We've kind of changed our ending. For a while now, instead of saying you are dismissed. What do we say? You are sent. Imagine if we all started to really believe that, that every time we walked out that door, we're sent, commissioned by Jesus as His ambassador to go and share His good news with the world. Imagine if we started to believe that and we started to do that. I think we could change the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's believe it, let's pray it, and let's go get to work because we are sent.