

7. Gathered and Scattered

1. Introduction - last week of Church series:
 - a. The world is hurting. The world is messed up. What is God's plan? You.
 - b. The church gathers...
 - i. To worship God, to hear the Word, to obey the Word, to ID w/ the cross, to remember what God has done, to love one another, to encourage one another, to be equipped...
 - ii. Why all these things? B/C the church gathers to scatter...
 - c. The church scatters...
 - i. To go and proclaim his excellencies
 - ii. To go and be a kingdom of priests
 - iii. To go and make disciples
 - iv. To go and to love and serve a hurting world → to be the Good Samaritan
 - v. To die that others might live
 - vi. The church scatters to gather (worshippers, people to Christ, etc)...
2. *[16] Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. [17] And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [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, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*
(Matthew 28:16-20 ESV)
 - a. Passage breakdown:
 - i. Jesus comes back, some worship... some doubt...
 - ii. All authority in heaven and on earth...
 - iii. Because of my authority, as you are going... make disciples...
 1. Followers, learners, Christians
 2. Who identify w/ Jesus...
 3. Who obey Jesus...
 - iv. Yes, you will be persecuted, maybe even die - but I am with you always...
 - b. A few observations/questions:
 - i. What does this teach about God?
 1. Deserves to be worshipped and doubting is straight up silly
 2. He has a lot of authority - all of it actually (no checks and balances)
 3. He entrusts US to do his work → makes God kind of crazy
 4. He will be with us always in order to accomplish said work (maybe not crazy)
 - ii. What does this teach about us?
 1. We either worship or we doubt
 2. Worshippers will obey. Doubters won't.

3. We need him to be with us if we are to accomplish his work.
Without him, apart from him, we can do nothing.
- c. So Jesus commands us to go and make disciples, but he gives no real gameplan
3. *[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 ESV)*
 - a. Jesus said he would be with us. How? In the Holy Spirit...
 - b. So many people say that they aren't equipped to make disciples. This is Jesus' response... I will give you HS power to make disciples
 - i. True purpose of HS vs. pop-culture (power encounters aren't the goal)
 - c. Our response (our tribe, our circle): I don't want HS power, I want a...
 - i. Program... Curriculum... Professional... Book... More training...
 - ii. We have become a people who are so distracted w/ the tools that we forget the essentials.
 1. Calculator vs. basic math
 2. Level vs. laser
 3. People can't boil an egg, change a car tire, sew a button
 - iii. Same is true of our Christianity
 - d. Jesus equips us with his Spirit, with his Word, with Prayer
 - i. The early church responded with deep connection to him...
 - ii. And obedience...
 - e. Amazingly, this was enough for a world-changing movement (c.f. Acts...)
4. *[3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:3-5 ESV)*
 - a. Talking to believers...
 - b. Abide → dwell, live, remain connected
 - i. Why? Because apart from me you can do NOTHING
 1. How much? NOTHING. How much? NOTHING
 - a. I don't really believe that. Do you? I try hard first, don't you?
 - ii. When you find yourself in an impossible situation, what do you do? Pray.
 1. If we really believed we could do nothing we would DESPERATELY pray more.
 - iii. This is exactly what Jesus says - we can do nothing (which is why he is with us always, why he sent the HS).
 - c. We need to abide. How do you abide. Hear, Embrace, Live
 - i. Hear → You must be in the Word. You being in the Word is more important than me teaching you the Word.
 - ii. Embrace → You can read the Word without abiding. It isn't a mental exercise, it is a spiritual submission

1. Meditate on the Word. You say you don't know how to meditate? You do. Do you know how to worry? Worry is meditating - just meditating on your problem rather than God.
2. Meditation is chewing, thinking, pondering on the Word
 - a. What it means. What it means for your life. What it means for your actions, your neighbor, etc.
3. Inseparably from prayer - Talking to God about his Word.
 - a. Your best prayer is fed by the Scripture.
 - b. God speaks in his Word, you speak in prayer
 - c. No conversing w/ God without both and there's no such thing as a health relationship without conversation
- iii. Live → Obey. Abiding is about bearing fruit. As you connect w/ him through hearing the Word and praying, you will be changed as you submit to it
 1. Convicted about something? Don't ignore it, pray and act on it!
 2. Feel like God is prompting you to do something. Do it ASAP!
 3. As we respond to the vine, we bear fruit, and the whole point of being connected is to bear fruit
 4. And as we bear fruit, we prove we are his disciples and we give him much glory:
 5. *[8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (John 15:8 ESV)*
- iv. (Option sharing) Five Steps:
 1. Admit you can do nothing without God (John 15:5).
 2. Pray for help (Psalm 50:15).
 3. Trust a specific promise (2 Chronicles 20:20).
 4. Act (Philippians 2:12–13).
 5. Thank God for his provision and goodness (Psalm 106:1).
- d. The point is this: In order to make disciples you must be a disciple.
 - i. It's not a curriculum. It's not a book. It's not a program. It's not a training. It's not an apologetic.
 - ii. It is normal you being filled w/ God and then God working through you.
 - iii. It is an overflow of the Spirit in you. There's no pressure to PERFORM, just to abide in his grace and his relationship.
 - iv. How do you make disciples? By being a disciple. Be a Christ-follower.
 1. Maintain the relationship w/ the one you claim to follow!
 2. Just do the stuff a follower of Christ would do!
5. So, demystified, you make disciples by being a disciple, and you do this as you are going
 - a. Where you live...
 - i. Be a disciple as you interact w/ your spouse...
 - ii. Be a disciple as you interact w/ your kids...
 - iii. Be a disciple as you interact w/ your neighbors...

- b. Where you work...
 - i. Be a disciple as you lead others...
 - ii. Be a disciple as you work for others...
 - iii. Be a disciple as you work hard...
 - iv. Be a disciple as you go to school...
 - v. Be a disciple w/ your attitude, your words, your jokes..
 - c. Where you play...
 - i. Be a disciple as you play sports...
 - ii. Be a disciple as you go to the gym...
 - iii. Be a disciple as you go to the restaurant... the supermarket...
 - d. All of this begins w/ you BEING a disciple and GROWING as a disciple daily
 - i. Apart from him, you can do nothing
 - e. As you stay connected to Christ...
 - i. You will be transformed (you will act and think differently)
 - ii. The Holy Spirit will prompt you...
 - 1. To say something... to pray something... to talk to someone...
 - 2. OBEY!
 - f. This is how disciples are made - by YOU
 - i. *[1] And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. [3] But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. [4] Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (Acts 8:1-4)*
 - ii. I love that the apostles didn't go - the people did...
6. Wrapping up:
- a. We must learn to read the Word
 - i. DBS Method (resources on our website and available in print next week)
 - ii. Multiply (If you take one, please throw \$10 in offering box if you can afford it. If not, just take the book anyway)
 - 1. Also free online www.multiplymovement.com
 - iii. Sermon Series (plus reading plan, modeling DBS)
 - b. We must learn to pray
 - i. Commit to daily praying by yourself
 - ii. Commit to daily praying w/ your family
 - iii. Commit to weekly praying w/ other Christians
 - iv. Commit to monthly praying w/ your Church
 - c. We must somehow open ourselves up to the leading, empowering, guiding of the HS as we do those two things.\