

“PREPARING TO PARENT”

Sermon, Bible Study, and Sunday School Class Outlines

MATTHEW 28:18-20 – “Go and Plant Churches”

Theme: Church planting is the most Biblical and effective way of fulfilling the Great Commission, it’s God’s design, and thus something we need to pursue as a church.

I. God obviously cares about reaching the lost and church planting is the most effective way of doing that

- Statistics of unchurched people in the world, the US, your community
- No other method has proven to be more effective in reaching people with the gospel than the planting of new churches (reasons)
- This, therefore, one of the Church’s top priorities

II. God obviously cares about reaching the diverse “ethne” of the world

- Israel called to be “a light to the nations”
- Pentecost (Acts 2) – reverse of Babel and fulfilling God’s original design to see all the people’s of the earth represented in His Kingdom
- Rev 7:9-12 – Heaven will reflect the successful fulfillment of this Great Commission; we need to see it reflected in our own churches now here on earth!
- New churches the best way of reaching new people groups and communities – can start with a new DNA.

III. “Baptizing” and “Making Disciples” implies the context and development of a covenantal, faith community.

- We not just called here to lead people to Christ and see professions of faith but to identify and incorporate people into the Body of Christ and help them grow in the faith.
- Cf. Matthew 16:18 – This Jesus’ own priority and goal (+ Paul’s pattern or strategy).
- Thus, we are committed to planting churches not only because it’s the most effective way to reach the lost but because of our ecclesiology.

John 4:31-38; Matthew 9:35-38 - "A People After God's Own Heart"

Theme: We to see the world through God's eyes, feel for it with His heart, and have the same passion for His glory/work. This translates into caring for and reaching lost and broken people.

I. Having Christ's VISION for the world/our community (seeing it through His eyes; the way He sees it)

- The need to see our community as it really is; demographics, ethnographics, statistics, ethos, needs all around us
- Statistics of America's/North America's unchurched population

II. Having Christ's HEART for the world/our community (feeling for it with His heart) – "And seeing the multitudes He had compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd"

- When Jesus looks into our communities, neighborhoods, homes, churches, workplaces, etc He doesn't see demographic statistics but broken, hurting people who need Him whether they know it or admit or not.
- When He sees this brokenness He is not moved to indignation or condemnation but to compassion – e.g. Matthew 11:28-30
- In His earthly ministry and ultimately the Cross we see God's heart; God's response to the sinfulness and brokenness of our lives, our world.

III. Having Christ's PASSION for the world/our community (having His zeal for God's glory and work) – "I have food to know not of ... My food is to do the will of my Father and to accomplish His work"

- "My food" – This is His greatest desire or "need" in life; what fulfills Him, fuels Him, satisfies His deepest "need"
- Is this our "food"? Are we "malnourished"? Have we ever thought of mission as "food for the soul"?!
- If it's our desire to glorify God and see His will/work done on earth then we must join Jesus in the harvest because that's where He is; that's where He'll be found.

Conclusion: To the degree these three things characterize our individual and corporate life to that degree we will become involved in the harvest through prayer, outreach, church planting, and world missions.

“WHY PLANT CHURCHES”

1. It is the most effective way of reaching new people with the gospel. THE most effective evangelistic strategy known to man
 - In the PCA and elsewhere studies show conversion rates in the first five years of a church’s life are 8x greater.
 - New churches tend to be more contextualized, more outwardly faced, and are perceived as more open by others (vs an established club that’s hard to break in to)
2. Because of our ecclesiology – God’s design was to form a new people who belonged to Him; worshipping communities who love and serve each other and mobilize their efforts and resources to reach others.
 - Matt. 16:18 + Paul’s pattern
 - Especially in today’s world, people will often “belong” before they “believe”.
3. Because of the vitalizing effect it has on congregations – yours and others.
 - Churches that plant churches tend to be healthier and grow more rapidly even if (or because?) they give away people
 - It tends to cause other churches to become more outwardly faced.
 - “High tide raises all ships”
4. Because it continues to fuel world missions
 - We need to continue to expand the “base” of churches that are generating manpower and resources for Kingdom expansion – can’t just keep going back to same ones and “squeezing blood out of the same turnips; we need more turnips!”
 - No better “bang for your buck” – in funding a church plant you will not only be able to stop and redirect your funds but you will leave behind a church that is generating manpower and funding of its own. A real “return on investment”!