**Neighbors and nations, part 2**

**Revival** is when the Spirit of God shows up to ignite a fire in people which then accelerates & moves those people towards the mission of God.

What is our Mission?

Love God and Love the Nations

Love God and Love our Neighbors

The church was birthed when **120 of His followers** who were waiting in the Upper Room in Jerusalem were baptized with the Fire of the Holy Spirit and they spilled out into the streets. Where they boldly shared their faith in Jesus with a huge crowd who were celebrating a huge Jewish holiday called Day of Pentecost.

These were the followers of Jesus who went into hiding when Jesus was arrested and crucified.

They went from being **HUDDLED UP** in FEAR to being **FIRED UP** and BOLDLY sharing their Jesus stories.

Days before they were avoiding the crowd afraid to be recognized as a Jesus' followers, but now they are praying, praising and prophesying to publicly to 1000’s.

**THE SPIRIT AWAKENED IN THEM TO THEIR MISSION**

But now **Peter is BOLDY preaching** to scoffers and skeptics in broad daylight!

He was **AWAKENED TO HIS MISSION**

Acts 2:22,23 (NEW Passion Translation) “People of Israel, listen to the facts. Jesus, the Victorious, was a Man on a divine mission whose authority was clearly proven. For you know how God performed many powerful miracles, signs, and wonders through him. **23** This Man’s destiny was prearranged, for God knew that Jesus would be handed over to you to be crucified and that you would execute him on a cross by the hands of lawless men. Yet it was all part of his predetermined plan!

Peter said, God raised Him from the dead and we are witnesses of this!

He told them anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Not all accepted this, some rejected… but 1000’s came to faith in the risen Jesus.

Both **the Nations** and **their Neighbors** were there on that day when God birthed the church.

**People were listed from:** Northeastern and Northwestern Iran; Central Turkey and the coastal areas around the Black Sea. Romans, Egyptians, Lybians, Cretans, and Arabs from all around the Middle East.

The Nations and their Neighbors who lived in the city were all there! People they knew and others they did not know.

CL Challenge: Wake up to our Mission! Our mission is the same as theirs!

**It’s a Two-fold Mission**

**The Great Commission:** Go therefore and make disciples of all **Nations…**

**The Great Commandment:** Love God and Love Your **Neighbors** as Yourself

**We Owe a Debt to Our Neighbors**

**Romans 13:8-10** NET Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves his **neighbor** has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, “Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not covet,” (and if there is any other commandment) are summed up in this, “Love your **neighbor** as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a **neighbor**. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Pay all your debts **except the debt of loving** your neighbor—**never finish paying that**!

If you treat your neighbor with love, you will not want to cheat them, steal from them, hurt or harm them in anyway. Love does no wrong to a **neighbor**.

Love is the fulfillment of the law!

Think of the 10 commandments:

Were they given by God to take our freedom away? NO!

Was the law given because God loves punishment and control? NO

No! the law was given for the benefit of society. God wanted people to be treated with love!

The first 4 commandments are all about making God the Priority… Have no gods before me!

The next 6 is about how we treat people! Honor your parents, don’t murder; don’t steal; don’t covet what not yours and don’t lie! Don’t commit adultery.

The law was given because God wants us to do no harm to a neighbor! (loving your neighbor fulfilled the spirit of the law)

This why Jesus said the entire law can be summed up in 2 commandments: Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength and love your neighbor as yourself!

Now Paul is repeating what Jesus taught: Love your neighbor as yourself…

Romans 8:11-12 **And do this because we know the time**, that it is **already the hour** for us to **awake from sleep**, for our **salvation is now nearer**than when we became believers. 12 The night has advanced toward dawn; the day is near. So then we must lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the weapons of light.

**Who is my Neighbor?**

The word used for neighbor by Jesus in Matthew 22 and Luke 10 is the same word Paul uses in Romans and the original word is very telling. The word is **πλησ**ί**ον *plēsíon*** and it comes from the root word for **near**, **near to**. In other words, the neighbor you are suppose to love is someone close by.

Your Neighbor is Someone Near.

Acts 17:24-27 Paul is speaking to unsaved philosophers in Athens. **24** The God who made the world and everything in it —He is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in shrines made by hands. **25** Neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. **26** From one man He has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and **has determined their appointed times** and **the boundaries of where they live.** **27** He **did this so they might seek God**, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.

You were placed near to those in your family, school, jobs by God, for a reason! So you could help them seek God!

**The Church today** has **more literature**, **media**, **programs**, and **training** for reaching others than any time in our history, but the Church in America in most areas is declining.

Could it be as simple as we’ve forgotten the most foundational part of the process, that Jesus said start with our neighbors? The Ones who are nearby?

 Your Neighbor is Someone in Need.

How do I love my neighbor? Romans 13 tells us Love is Kind!

The most famous parable of Jesus is the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-29 NIV On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **26**              “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” **27** He answered, “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” **28** “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” **29** But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?

The Priest and the Levite passed on the other side.

By law they were required to stop and help someone who was injured, but also, they weren’t allowed touch a dead body so who knows what would have motivated them to keep on going.

But he Samaritan stopped cared enough to stop

To love your Neighbor.

Look for people on the same road… Proximity

The Samaritan and the wounded person were using the same road!

Look for people who have been wounded!

It is not by accident that Jesus pointed out in his story that the **Priest** and the **Levite** (both ministers in the temple of God) avoided helping the wounded person.

They left the wounded man to die! I am sure they justified it… *too busy*, *he’s as good as dead anyhow*, *its his own fault for traveling by himself*

Many people have gone to church only to feel like the people of the church looked the other way!

Many of them have been wounded by church experiences!

Use what you have!

Open up your pockets!

Find some helpful resources, you can’t do it all!

If you help someone recover or get a great win! You will win their heart!

Be Bold and be Loving!

Speak the truth in love!

Boldness without love is a turn off!

Love without the Boldness to point people to Jesus is mean!

People need the Lord! That is our mission!

Near… Someone in Need…

Your Neighbor is Someone Not Yet Reached.

It is easy to get our eyes off the unreached.

Even as a Pastor there are so many challenges that distract and consume my time.

Paul knew this was so and gave some of his last words to Timothy, a young pastor he raised up.

2 Tim 4:2-8 NIV Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction (that’s a lot of work). **3** For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **4** They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. **5** But you, **keep your head in all situations**, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

**6** For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. **8** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

We can get so busy ministering and helping the church people that we forget to do the work of the evangelist.

Helping people in the church comes natural… doing the work of the evangelist has to be intentional.

Worldly people are so frustrating so **keep your head in all situations**. If you lose it you will lose influence with them.

There is coming a day when we will finish our race and we will stand before the righteous judge to give an account on how to Managed our Mission!

**A judgment day is come for us! WAKE UP!**

Romans 8:11 NET Romans 8:11-12 **And do this because we know the time**, that it is **already the hour** for us to **awake from sleep**, for our **salvation is now nearer** than when we became believers.

**Commission:** you today to go to People you know and to some you don’t know yet!