



THE COMMISSIONS OF JESUS

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Ed Stetzer

(The following text is automatically generated and has not been edited)

Ed Stetzer 0:00

Have a Bible, take it out, or turn one on. And we're gonna start by looking through the commissions of Jesus. There are four of them. Commissions are short talks that Jesus gave between his resurrection and his ascension, right? In a sense, there is last earthly words before he ascends to the Father. And we're gonna look at all four of them with a real simple outline. My outlines are going to be easy to follow along. If you're a note taker, it's going to be we are sent to all different kinds of peoples with a message, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We'll get to that. I love this passage so much. A few years ago, I used to work, I used to be the vice president of a company called Lifeway. I bet some of you have shopped in a Lifeway. Raise your hand if you shopped in a Lifeway store. Yeah, lots of you. And then you bought all your books on Amazon, and they're all gone now. So thanks for that. Sorry. Was a little tender. There wasn't it. I was a little, I'm still working through that. So I used to be the vice president of a company called Lifeway, and I decided to leave that role. And I had been asked to leave the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, and so I decided I really wanted to, you know, Lifeway is publishing and and retail, but I really wanted to spend more of my time and more of my focus on helping men and women share their faith globally and locally. So I got a very strange email from the Washington Post, and because I had tweeted about why I was leaving Lifeway to take on this new role, the new focus of my ministry, the greater focus of my ministry, I should say, I was a church planter before, so I was kind of going back to some of my roots. And so I get this email from the Washington Post saying, Would you be open to writing a guest article in the Washington Post about why you're taking on this new job? We saw you tweet about it. We'd like you to unpack that very I mean, just not at all what I expected. And so I wrote this article for The Washington Post, and in there I explained what I'm going to explain to you today, that there are four commissions of Jesus. By the way, you can find this article online if you're so inclined. There are four commissions of Jesus between his resurrection and his ascension. These are, in a sense, his last earthly words. And I think last earthly words really should have a great, great amount of our attention. And so in that article, I explained that for Christians, Jesus last words should be our first priority. We should prioritize these commissions at an essential level for churches and for our lives and so, you know, writers don't pick the headlines. So the title of the article was, was a bit punchy. It was, call yourself a Christian, start talking about Jesus Christ. And I was okay with that. It appears many of the readers were not as enthusiastic about that title as I was. It became the most shared article on the Washington Post for about 36 hours, not because everyone was agreeing or affirming with what I had to say, but they and it kind of blew up. It came became controversial. We got I got phone calls and complaints and all this sort of stuff. So what I want you to know is, in the world, it's still controversial that we should prioritize missions and church planting and evangelism and showing and sharing the love of Jesus, but also too in many ways, the church sometimes loses its focus in these areas and gets focused on other things. So I want to say to you that the reason i i said yes to be here this weekend was because I'm excited that we're together at Bent Tree, leaning in on God's global mission, and that Jesus, last earthly word, should be our first priority. So you ready to jump in? All right, let's do it. If you have a Bible, hopefully you've got it open. They're gonna be four commissions of Jesus. I'm going to give them chronologically in the order that Jesus gave the commissions, and number one, our first point. If you're a note taker, I'm easy to follow. Number one, we are sent. Would you say those three words out loud with me together? They're on your screen. Let's say it together. We are sent. That was a little weak. Let's try it again. We are sent. Okay, good. So we are sent. And that's for all of us as followers of Jesus. Commission number one chronologically is given in this upper room where Jesus finds the disciples in John, chapter 20 and verse 21 it says Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you, as the Father has sent Me, I also send you now, after identifying himself as sent more than 40 times in the Gospel of John, Jesus keeps saying, you know, the Father has sent me. I've been sent by the Father for this. I'm sent in the by the father at the end of the Gospel of John, at the high point of mission. Jesus then points back to well, he says, As the Father has sent Me, which now John has

recorded 40 times as the Father has sent Me, I also sent you. Because God is a sender. God sends Jesus. Jesus has sent us. Now again, we have to lean into this identity. We are the sender. Sent people of God. If you're a follower of Jesus, you are sent by Jesus into this world. Now that means for some of us that we live sent, in our workplace, in our neighborhoods, among our families, but all of us are called to live sent. It's not just missionaries who are called to live sent. Matter of fact, Charles Spurgeon is a famous preacher, maybe, perhaps the prince of preachers. And he put it this way, commenting on this passage, he said, Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter. Now, once you know, I wouldn't quite put it the same way. I think we want to elevate the role of cross cultural missionaries. They have made substantive and ongoing sacrifices, and as you interact with some of them out of the lobby, I want you to know that for many of them, they put their lives on hold or at risk and sacrifice so that they might make the name and fame of Jesus more widely known. The heroes of this week are our missionaries Amen. All right, that was again, a weekend. Are you not an amen in church? I really need you know, because I'm a Baptist, like, like, Jesus and all the disciples were and so I'm going to give you another opportunity to amend this. Okay, I think you're kind of more one of those uh huh churches. You know? You kind of, yeah, yeah. So let me say again, our missionaries this week are the heroes of our gathering. Amen. There it is. There it is. All right. We're working on it. We're working towards it. So, number one, we are sent. And maybe you thought, well, missionaries, the one are sent, they are right. So they're sent by Jesus. But all of us have a sent identity by Jesus. We all have one call, right? We're talking about one we all have one call, and that is to live on mission for Jesus. So we do that with our neighbors, and then we partner together with our churches, our mission agencies, to do that among the nations, right? It's we are sent. That's our one call, that includes things like reaching the unreached, strengthening churches, things we're emphasizing, responding to crises, empowering women, advocating for children. But God is a sender. By His nature. He sent Jesus. Jesus sends us, and we respond to that one call. God's a sender throughout the pages of Scripture. He sends Abram, who becomes Abraham, blessed to be a blessing. He sends Isaiah. Isaiah actually responds to God and says, Here I am, Lord, send me. God sent Jonah. We go on and on. God sends for he is a sender. God sends Jesus, and then Jesus sends us on mission. We are sent, and we are sent on mission to bring hope and value and dignity, showing and sharing the love of Jesus to a broken and hurting world. And I want you to know that sometimes churches sort of forget this focus. They get busy on so many there's so many things to do, right? There's so many things to consider. Our lives are busy. So that's why it's special when a church like bent tree comes together and says, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, we're gonna take a couple of weeks and remind people that God's on a mission, and Jesus invites us and sends us to join him on that mission. So number one, we are sent. So that's the first commission of Jesus given in a chronological order, and it begins there, right? So we're gathered together around this one call. We are sent. Number two, if you're a note taker, we're sent to all different kinds of people. We're sent to all different kinds of people. Now let me read a longer passage. This is what's called the Great Commission. I I kind of feel bad for the other three commissions, because I think they're all pretty great, but people call this one the Great Commission. Whole books have been written about this verse, conferences planned around it. Lives have been changed. Nations have been

Speaker 1 8:54

transformed because somebody heard this commission. Let's look at it. It says this, beginning in Matthew, chapter 28 verse 18, Jesus came near and said to them, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Now it's worth remembering that the Gospel of Matthew begins with Satan taking Jesus up to this pinnacle and saying, all this can be yours, if you'll just worship me. And that's how the Gospel of Matthew begins, right at the beginning, near the beginning, and here's how it ends. No, no, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. Now I want you not to miss this. It says, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. And there's actually only one verb in the Great Commission. It's make disciples. And it's technically what's called an heiress participle. So it's go make disciples. Go make disciples. I don't want you to miss that, because that's so central to what we're hearing. You walk in that lobby, and I hope you will linger after the service. Do it this week. Do it next week. Come to the activities during the week. Linger around God. God's global mission. So it says, Go, therefore, make disciples. I walked around here between services, and I counted six places where the words make disciples were listed out there on some of those signs, go make disciples. But then it says, of all nations, we're going to get to that in just a minute. Then it says, baptizing them. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Now we you know that here at Bentley, we do that right outside in that in that little fountain area, but that reminds us that this commission is given to the church. That's why we talk about church planting. That's why we care that there would be more churches in Slavic countries. That's why we care that there'd be more churches in among tribal groups in South America. Why? Because the Great Commission is given to the church, and one of the functions of the church is to baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and then to disciple them, teaching them to observe everything I have command you, and then the promise and surely and remember I am with you

always to the end of the age. Again, this is called the Great Commission. But I'm only going to focus on one part of the Great Commission, because we don't have time to unpack at all. And that's the words to all nations, to all nations in Greek. It's *Panta ta ethne*. Let's prepare to say that again together. We're going to say it out loud. It's *Panta ta ethne*. Are you ready Say it with me? *Panta ta ethne*, to all nations. Now, here's the thing, when Jesus said to go to all nations, he didn't mean all nations. Let me explain before you wonder, what is this guest speaker talking about that questioning pastor living right now like, why did it so? But, but he didn't mean it the way we understand it today. When we hear to all nations, we think of Brazil, we think of Spain, we think of Russia, we think of France, but those those nations, we think of Cambodia. But nations didn't exist as a concept when Jesus said these words, see, this is really important, because the modern nation state is a few 100 years old. So there's no scenario by which 2000 years ago, when the disciples heard him say *panta ta ethne*, that they thought, Oh, he's talking about the country of Iran. No, there's no scenario by which they were thought of that instead, they would have thought most commonly of the Gentiles right to go to all nations, people not like us, the nations around the world. *Pantata, ethne*. *Ethne* comes from the same root word as our English word *ethnic*. So it's all different kinds of people. So 2000 years ago, they would have thought of the nations of the peoples around the world. And so for us, the call is for us, indeed, to go to the nations, and we do that by collaborating together as a church with our mission agencies, 49 missionaries, plus 55 plus partners around the world, so that we can show and share the love of Jesus, and that means it's all different kinds of people, and it's all different kinds of people here too, right? So let me give you an example. A few years ago, I was asked to preach at a church that one of my students had planted, and it was a church kind of in an it's in a place called the highlands of Louisville, so it's this very avant garde art community, you know, artsy community. I got no artsy in me so, but it's so. So they invited me to come, and I showed up at the church. They only meet on Sunday night, I don't know, because maybe they've been out arting late on Saturday night I needed, I don't know. And I walked in, and I made it. When I walked in, I knew was I was a stranger in a strange land. Everyone was dressed in black. I had a colorful shirt on. I was, like, probably two decades older than everybody there. They were probably in their 20s, median age, in their 20s, and and, and I walked in and I thought, you know this, these are not my people, but you know, this is my student. I'm excited about the church had grown to 200 people. God was doing some amazing things. So I I walked in, and I came by, and I walked by the sound booth. They were singing songs. I didn't recognize any of the songs. I found out later they they wrote all their own worship music because they don't want to be sold out to the man singing commercial nurse worship music. They're artists. And I noticed that as I was walking in, I noticed that the music was it was too loud, which is, which is a new experience for me. So I walked by the sound booth, and I thought, because I, like, I was a church planter, so I have had, I've had hundreds of people say to me, man, if that that music is too loud, Pastor, I'd come to your church if your music wasn't so loud. Hundreds of people said that to me. And I thought out in my head lots of times. I might have even said it out loud a few times. Man, if that you man, if that music is too loud, maybe you're too old. And then I'm walking into the church and I say that music's too I'm that guy. Now there's an age when you switch teams on the volume thing and. Right then walking, and I was like, Oh, I'm that guy now, so, so, but I come in and like, like, I look around, these people are not like me, like, like, the tattoos per capita were really high and, and the the piercings and the, I mean, like, on the faces, they had piercings, and they were like, there were earrings, yeah, sure, but there were, like, nose rings and eyebrow rings and, and, I mean, it looked like half the church walked into a tackle box and then came to church that night. And so I'm like, these are not my people. This is not so I got up and I shared the message that night, and they were very kind. They were responsive, but, but, and they received the message, and I went and sat down. The pastor wasn't in town. I was filling in for him. And so I sat down, and I kind of watched the next phases of the service and and the associate pastor got up, and he invited people to the Lord's Supper. And he he What did, what theologians called, he fenced the table so, so if you're not a if you're not a Christian walking in right fellowship with the Lord, then you wouldn't want to partake today, if you have unrepentant sin that you're not willing to let go of, you wouldn't want to partake today. So I watched as they started coming up. About half the church came up at first, and they kind of came up, but whatever, it wasn't like by rows, and I was sitting over here, and there's a woman the other end of the road didn't come up in the Lord's Supper and a woman did come up and came back and started talking to her, and they started praying together and crying together, and then they went back up to the Lord's supper table. And this happened more than one occasion. And then they had two baptisms that night, two young men. And the first, I don't know, maybe 19 years old. And and he gets up, and he talks about his his broken relationship with his family. He talked, I mean, they just gave him the microphone. He just started talking. And and talking, it was it was raw, it was real. And and then he was baptized, and people were crying and applauding at the same time, and then the next young man came up, and he talked about sexual brokenness and addiction and how how Jesus has saved him and still working in him, and he's struggling, and people were crying and applauding and and I'm just sitting over there thinking, like, these aren't my people. Like, I don't know that I would run into these people in normal recurring parts of life, but I thought to myself, thank god somebody had heard the words of Jesus to go to all different kinds of people and plant a church there and see these lives changed by the

gospel. And that's true in church planting in North America, but it's also true with peoples around the world. As a missiologist, we call them ethno linguistic people groups, and that means that the pocot in Africa need a church planted. They need community transformation. They need gospel change. And so do the Iln in Malaysia, and so do the Quechua in the highlands of Peru. And we have the privilege to acknowledge that we're sent to all different kinds of peoples and then to partner together in this one call to go and make disciples of all nations. And that changes like everything. It's one mission, and it's one mission to our neighbors and to the nation. If we're all sent, we're all sent. The only question is where, among whom and doing what. So some are our heroes who are sent to the nations outside in the lobby and partners around the world. 49 missionaries partnered around the world, and some are sent to our neighbors, but we also when we're sent to our neighbors, that means we also get to partner together in God's global mission through things like this

Speaker 1 18:22

at our church, number one, we're sent. Number two, to all different kinds of people. Number three, with a message. With a message. Here's what it says. It says he also, this is Luke chapter, 24 verses, 46 through 48 let's look at that. That message. He also said to them, this is what is written. The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed. His name to all nations. Beginning of Jerusalem, You are witnesses of these things. I love this. We're sent with a message. It's one gospel. It's the same gospel message, and that message has been told to you by someone, if you're a follower of Jesus, you're a follower of Jesus because somebody told you about Jesus, and somebody told that person about Jesus, someone told that person, and it goes back 2000 years. There's like a great commission highway with a message of repentance and forgiveness of sins that goes back 2000 years. So a few years ago, I was going to speak at a conference. We lived in Chicago. I was at the Billy Graham Center there. Lived in Chicago for seven years. It was and it was cold in Chicago, it was, it was colder than a legalist heart, and that's cold. If that offended you, we might do some soul searching. But anyway, but I got an invitation to speak at an event down in Fort Lauderdale in February. So of course, I said yes, and Donna was like, Well, I'm going to Donna's my wife. And so we, we called the Uber to take the flight. Down to Fort Lauderdale, and the Uber showed up. And the Uber driver's name was Jane. I knew that from the app, and so Jane picked us up, and when I got in the car, it's cold, so we got right in the car, and Jane said, Hi, Ed, my name was on her app. And she Don introduced herself, and we got in the car, and Jane just started up a friendly conversation, she said, she said, First Man, if you if you like, I got some bottled water behind the seats. I got power cords if you need them, and feel free to take anything you want from the little basket between the seats. So I looked over at the basket. Donna looked down at the basket, and there was some candy in there and a very obviously strategically placed New Testament of the Bible. So I knew something was about to be afoot. So Don and I have been married now 39 years. We've been together, so we're high school sweethearts. Started dating when we were 16, so after about 30 years together, we actually could have entire conversations with our eyebrows alone. So I looked over at her, kind of made a little bit like an eyebrow, and I said, this whole kind of no vocal cords. I said, let's have a little fun with Jane. Let's not tell her about who we are, like what we do, because I was, you know, I'm teach evangelism at the Billy Graham Center. Let's not tell her, and let's see how this goes. And she, with her eyebrows, responded, back, Ed, I've known you for 40 years. Don't take this too far, though, for the whole eyebrow conversation. So Jane started saying, Well, where are you from? And I was born in New York City, and grew up outside of New York City. Donna's from Canada. We shared that. And you know, you have family. I told about our three amazing daughters. We have three daughters and and so we just kind of started talking. And she said, Well, what brought you to town? And I said, well, a job. And she said, What do you do? And I had to be careful, so I said, I'm a teacher. What do you do? And so she said, Well, I'm not driving. I like to drive Uber when nobody's buying, but I'm a realtor normally and so. And so she just like to send she likes to meet people. She drives Uber and and so eventually she got to a question. I dodged a couple of them, but she got to the question where she said, Well, do you guys have any like, religious background or spiritual beliefs? And so Donna's eyebrows communicated to me, you have to tell her. And so I did. I said, Jane, actually, yes, Jane, Jane, we're actually Christians. Matter of fact, I teach evangelism at Wheaton College, and you are doing so good right now. And we laughed, and I said, Jane, can I, like record? We had 15 minutes still to go to O'Hare, so I said, Can I record an interview with you? And she shared about why she, you know, no one's buying houses in Chicago in February. So she's like, I drive Uber, so I get to tell people about Jesus. So you can actually Google the article, not now do it after church. Called Jane the Uber driver, and it tells the story. It kind of went viral. And so, so we flew down to Fort Lauderdale, and the next morning, I woke up to the news that you woke up to that Billy Graham died. And of course, I held the Billy Graham chair at Wheaton College. I was head of the Billy Graham Center. So we had a lot of things we had to do very quickly. Fast forward more than a week. We gathered down in Charlotte for the funeral. The gospel was beautifully proclaimed at the funeral. Loved that it was on TV. I was I was me and another guy, we voiced over the radio program. So if you listen on radio, I got to share some of the things that was going on in the funeral, but the gospel was proclaimed. And so

afterwards, all the reporters were there. This was a global news event. So So I came up and some reporters, you know, because I Billy Graham graduated Wheaton College, and so I held this chair in his name. So they asked questions. And the New York Times asked me, you know the normal questions, you What do you think Billy Graham's legacy will be like? Said, says, you know how you think Billy gra received today? And I gave an answer. I prepared those answers, and then she asked, Who's the next Billy Graham? And I was ready for the answer, but no one in the family wants to be called the next Billy Graham. They're all, you know, Billy Graham is a unique man, and is a no one should use the there no one's the next Billy Graham. God, used Billy Graham in unique, historic ways. But I was ready. She said, Who's the next Billy Graham? And I said, Jane, the Uber driver. She looked at me with a strange look in her face and and I explained the story, and she smiled, and she said, That's a great story, but it's not making the New York Times, and that's okay, but you see, that's what it is, right? So she's asking, who's the next Billy Graham? And I would say, we all are, but we're all the next in the line of Christians who've heard the gospel and now are proclaiming the gospel to others, right? So Jane was someone told Jane the gospel, and then Jane was trying to tell us the gospel, but someone who told Jane the gospel, someone told that person, someone told that person, and someone told Billy Graham the gospel. He's raised in a Christian home, but he credits Mordecai Ham with preaching the gospel that night when he committed his life to Christ. And someone told Mordecai Ham, and someone told that person. And for 2000 years, you and I, if you're a follower of Jesus, have been inherited a great commission highway. Someone told someone, who told someone? And as we gather together at moments like this, we're reminding ourselves to not let our lives become a cul de sac on God's great. Mission highway,

Speaker 1 25:07

and that includes all around the world, this message to be proclaimed all around the world. And so when we walk out here, we'll hear about evangelism and global missions and and we're showing and sharing the love of Jesus and this common message, this one gospel, is what unites us. So we just saw that wonderful thing from from Cambodia and but let me also say World Relief, who's out there? I mean, we see around the world, and we have confidence in what they're doing, because we share one gospel when we go around and we see the different ministries out there from India and from Africa. And you can place, you can you can literally talk to people who are there in Uganda or engaging in Eastern Europe or engaging in South America. Why are we in this together? Because we have a message repentance, for forgiveness of sins, proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem, You are witnesses of these things. And for me, I mean, I was happy to fly here because I wanted to be a part of a passionate church that loves getting the gospel around the world that makes all the difference. Four commissions of Jesus. Number one, we are sent. It's one call. We are sent to all of us. Number two, to all different kinds of people. It's one mission, right? It's one mission, but to all different kinds of people. Number three, with a message, right? We're sent with this message of repentance for forgiveness of sins. It's one gospel. And number four, and finally, I'll close with this. You know what it means when a guest speaker says, I'll close with this? Not the last service of the day, absolutely nothing, actually, because it's like, like, what are you going to do? Are you going to what are you going to bring a little hook and take me off? No. Last service. I hope you packed a lunch, because I got some. But here's the thing, and I really I want you to hear that your church, what you're doing, is no longer the norm. What you're doing with a focus on global missions around one and more, it used to be the norm. We go back 100 years ago, what's called the Great century of missions. Churches used to, they'd spend time together and they talk about how they gonna reach the nations, and they'd send missionaries out. But the the great century missions actually ended about a century ago. It actually went from the late 1800s to early 1900s and and then over time, as as as maybe for some churches, their passion for global missions waned. I'm super thankful that this church chooses to stand out and say we're about God's Global Mission to the nations. I don't know what that means for the future. I'm not a prophet. I'm not the son of a prophet, and I work at a non profit organization, so I don't know. But here we stand together and we say, one in this together. Number four, remember, we're sent to all peoples with a message. Number four, empowered by the Spirit, empowered by the Spirit. Now it's interesting, because this is Acts, chapter one, verse eight. Let's put it on the screen together. We just take a look at it. It says you'll receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, you'll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the other most parts of the earth. I want to leave that on the screen for just a minute, but I want to tell you what's before that in Acts, chapter one, verse six, it's not on your screen. If you have a Bible, you can read it along with me. I'm going to read a paraphrase. Okay, I call this the the ESV, the Ed Stetzer version. This is a paraphrase of that. So here's what it says in the paraphrase verse six. So when they come together, they ask, Jesus, Lord, have you read the latest installment of the Left Behind series? That's not really what they said. They said, Lord, are You restoring the kingdom to Israel? At this time, they wanted to know, Is This the End Times? I don't know if you know this, but last week, we had another prediction of the rapture. How many of you saw that in the news? Yeah, yeah, we're still here. So that means one of two things, they were wrong, or we missed it. So I had a phone call with a reporter, kind of asking my comment about this. And I said, these are fringe groups, and Jesus is gonna come back.

Jesus is gonna come back. He he is a soon, and coming King, he's gonna come back. And so I, I was in this news story, and I kind of shared about it. I just think these predictions are so incredibly unhelpful. Many of you heard about it here and so. But here's the thing, right? People are fascinated by that. So, like, 2000 years ago, they're like, Lord, are You restoring the kingdom to Israel? Is this it? Is this the end times and and what Jesus said, it's not for you to know the times or the periods that the Father has set by his own authority. He says, You're not on the time and date community committee. You're on the welcome committee. City, that's your job. Now, I got to tell you, I did have a little fun with this. If you on social media, I decided after the it didn't happen. Or, you know, I took a picture of my I stacked together my my shoes and my pants and my shirt on the ground. Yeah, I know I'm the worst. And I took a picture of it, and I said, I told you the rapture wouldn't happen. And then I just tweeted it right there with not on that day. Now, don't misunderstand, Jesus is coming back, and he's gonna reign and complete the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God and King, but when they wanted to talk about the end times, and that's why, like all around this room, yeah, I saw the story, et cetera, et cetera, when they wanted to talk about the end times. Here's what Jesus said. Let's put it back up there. Acts chapter one, verse eight, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you'll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. So when they want to talk about the end times Jesus wanted to send them on mission, that's a beautiful thing for us. We have this one power. We're empowered by the Holy Spirit right now, it's a little tricky, because, you know, we as Christians, we often say that, like, we got to reach our Jerusalem, and I get that I'm not, like, I'm not the word police here, but you actually don't get to have an our Jerusalem. Jerusalem is still a city in Asia. It's still there. But Christians, we like to sort you know, it's our Jerusalem. Then we reach our Judea, which is maybe like our city, and then our Samaria, which is like our state, and then maybe the uttermost parts of the earth. But what I want you to know a couple things. First of all, I mean, Christians do love I was in Singapore a few years ago, and the Singaporean believers said they wanted to be the Antioch of Asia. You know, Antioch is this great mission sending church in Acts. I love that. And I just blurted, well, you guys, know, like Antioch is still in Asia, you can't really be the Antioch of Asia. So I'm, I'm actually not allowed to return to Singapore meet with the Christians there because they were very excited about that. I was younger, so but I want you not to miss that. But then don't miss this, too. When we say Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the Samaritans were not the people in the region around Judea. They were the people you didn't like that you'd walk around their cities that they were despised. They were the people that were marginalized. And Jesus mentioning the Samaritans is actually an outline of the book of Acts, by the way, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, uttermost parts of the earth. But the Samaritans today, you want to minister Samaritans today, you can partner together with World Relief as they resettle refugees and share the gospel with them. Those are our modern day Samaritans, or others. So here we see Jesus says you need the power of the Holy Spirit. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Why to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth so today and the power of the Holy Spirit, the mission is from everywhere and to everywhere. And you get a beautiful picture of that by just walking into our lobby this week. We're coming to our events this week, and the power of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit. So here's the four things I'll close with this for real, we are sent to all different peoples with a message empowered by the Holy Spirit. So how might you respond? Well, you see, the mission is for all of us, right? So Jesus said, As the Father has sent me, even so send I you, you and I are sent on mission to our neighbors, to our nations, to our family, to our community. Some are sent on mission cross culturally, around the world. We want to celebrate them. We want to support them. We need to hold up their arms as they do this important work, but all are sent. The question is, where, among whom and doing what? And the Lord might be speaking to you about where you're sent, maybe reminding you about engaging your neighbor, but he may also be burdening you about a nation. And maybe that's a mission trip, or maybe that's you saying. You know what? I've been in business for so long. Maybe it's time for me to step out and actually do Business as Mission in Chiang Mai. Or maybe it's time for me to engage in cross cultural missions in Portuguese speaking Africa. Or maybe it's time for me to say yes to something I've been putting off. And what I want to ask you to do today, for all of us in obedience to Christ, is simply this, you put your yes on the table and let God put it on the map,

Speaker 1 34:24

because he sent you on mission. Only question is where, among whom, and doing what? And if you'll say, Lord Jesus, I'll go anywhere you want me to go, do anything you want me to do, as long as it's in the power of the Holy Spirit, He'll guide you to your neighbor. He'll guide you to partner, to reach the nations. He might even guide you to some of those nations. So my encouragement to you is really simple, lean in this week, we have a beautiful gathering people from different tongue, tribe and nation, just like revelation, seven men and women from every tongue, tribe and nation. That's our lobby. That's also our church, your church. Church has a reputation as a growing multi ethnic church. You I don't know if you know this, but your pastor is kind of an expert in this area, with his PhD work as well a thriving multi e multi ethnic congregation that makes

much of Jesus makes perfect sense to join God in His global mission. So as I close this in prayer, I want you to put your yes on the table and let Jesus put it on the map. Would you pray with me, father? We acknowledge that by Your grace and Your goodness, you have redeemed us and called us by name. And we acknowledge again and afresh today, that you have sent us on mission. We acknowledge that we are sent to all different kinds of people with a message in the power of the Holy Spirit that one draws us together and scatters us on mission, just with your head bowed, your eyes closed for just a moment. Might you think on what the Lord's speaking to you this week? Maybe it's to partner more visibly and intentionally in God's global mission. Maybe it's giving, maybe it's maybe it's going, would you put your yes on the table? Let God put it on the map. Maybe think about your workplace or your neighborhood, or your family or your friends. Will you live on mission there? Will you put your yes on the table and let God put it on the map, Lord Jesus, we acknowledge that these words between your resurrection and your ascension are so central these commissions of Jesus, may they shape our lives, may your final earthly words be such a central priority in our lives and our church that we won't be cul de sacs on the Great Commission highway that the message will be proclaimed by us and in partners, through them and father, we yield it all to the power of your Holy Spirit, for it's in Jesus name and his sake. We pray Amen and Amen. Thanks for the opportunity to share with you. God bless you.