

Week 5: Faith That Reaches Others

“Living as Witnesses”

Text: Matthew 28:19–20 ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”;

Acts 2:42–47 ⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Introduction: Faith Was Never Meant to Stay With Us

Over the last few weeks, we have talked about what it means to have a faith that works, a faith that changes us, and a faith that can be seen in the way we live.

But there is another step.

Faith that changes us should eventually reach somebody else.

Jesus didn't save us just so we could sit in church, enjoy the presence of God, and keep what we've received to ourselves.

He saved us so we could **go**.

He called us to be witnesses.

He called us to make disciples.

He called us to reach people who don't know Him yet.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:19–20:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”

Notice that Jesus didn't say, “Go when you feel comfortable.”

He didn't say, “Go when you know enough Bible verses.”

He didn't say, “Go if you're naturally outgoing.”

He simply said, **“Go.”**

The Great Commission wasn't given just to pastors, missionaries, evangelists, or church leaders.

It was given to every believer.

1. THE GREAT COMMISSION BELONGS TO EVERY BELIEVER

Matthew 28:19 begins with the word:

“Go.”

That word carries movement.

Jesus expects His people to take the Gospel beyond the church building.

We don't just come to church to receive.

We come to church to be equipped to go.

Sunday morning isn't the finish line.

It's the starting point.

We gather together so we can worship, grow, encourage one another, and be strengthened.

Then we walk out those doors and take Jesus with us.

That's why the church cannot become focused only on what happens inside the building.

The question isn't simply:

“How was church today?”

The bigger question is:

“What did I do with what God gave me today?”

Did I encourage somebody?

Did I pray with somebody?

Did I tell somebody what Jesus has done for me?

Did I invite somebody to church?

Did I show somebody the love of Christ?

We are not spectators.

We are witnesses.

Acts 1:8 says:

“You will be my witnesses...”

Jesus didn't say, “You will be my church members.”

He said, **“You will be my witnesses.”**

A witness simply tells what they have seen and experienced.

You don't have to know everything.

You don't have to have every answer.

You can simply say:

“I know what Jesus has done for me.”

2. EVANGELISM BEGINS WITH RELATIONSHIPS

Sometimes we make evangelism harder than it needs to be.

We think we have to stand on a street corner with a microphone.

We think we have to preach a sermon.

We think we need to know how to answer every theological question.

But often, evangelism starts much simpler than that.

It starts with a relationship.

Look at the people God has already placed around you.

Your family.

Your neighbors.

Your coworkers.

Your friends.

The person you sit beside at the ball game.

The person you see at the grocery store.

The person who works across the counter from you.

The person who is hurting but doesn't know where to turn.

God may have placed you in their life for a reason.

Sometimes we are praying:

“God, send somebody to me.”

And God is saying:

“I've already sent them. You just haven't noticed.”

Jesus reached people where they were.

He talked with people.

He ate with people.

He listened to people.

He showed compassion to people.

He built relationships.

And through those relationships, people encountered God.

Evangelism isn't just telling people about Jesus.

Evangelism is living in such a way that people can see Jesus in us.

Our words matter.

But so do our actions.

How we treat people matters.

How we respond when we're frustrated matters.

How we forgive matters.

How we love people who don't agree with us matters.

How we respond when life doesn't go our way matters.

People are watching.

And sometimes our life is the first Bible somebody will ever read.

3. THE CHURCH EXISTS BEYOND ITS WALLS

Acts 2:42–47 gives us a beautiful picture of the early church.

They gathered together.

They prayed together.

They worshiped together.

They ate together.

They helped one another.

They shared with those who were in need.

And then something happened.

People were added to the church.

Acts 2:47 says:

“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

Why?

Because the church wasn't just a place they went.

The church was who they were.

They carried their faith into their homes.

Into their neighborhoods.

Into their communities.

Into their relationships.

And people saw something different.

That's what God wants for us.

Harvest Assembly of God shouldn't only be known for what happens on Sunday morning.

We should be known for what happens **Monday through Saturday.**

Our community should know:

If I need somebody to pray, I can call the church.

If I'm hurting, the church will care.

If my family is struggling, somebody will help.

If I need hope, somebody will point me to Jesus.

The church should be a lighthouse—not a clubhouse.

We don't exist just to take care of ourselves.

We exist to reach people.

4. WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus didn't simply say:

“Go make converts.”

He said:

“Go and make disciples.”

There is a difference.

A convert says:

“I believe in Jesus.”

A disciple says:

“I want to follow Jesus.”

Evangelism gets people connected to Christ.

Discipleship helps them grow in Christ.

And the two belong together.

That's why we don't just want people to walk through our doors.

We want people to encounter Jesus.

We want them to grow.

We want them to learn God's Word.

We want them to discover their purpose.

We want them to become followers of Jesus who eventually help somebody else follow Jesus.

Disciples make disciples.

That's how the Gospel spreads.

One person reaches another.

That person reaches another.

And another.

And another.

The Gospel moves from heart to heart and life to life.

5. GOD CAN USE ORDINARY PEOPLE

One of the greatest encouragements in Scripture is that God uses ordinary people.

The disciples weren't perfect.

They weren't professional religious leaders.

They were fishermen, tax collectors, and ordinary men and women who had encountered Jesus.

And when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they became bold witnesses.

You may think:

"I'm not good at talking to people."

God can use you.

"I don't know enough Scripture."

God can use you.

"I'm not a preacher."

You don't have to be.

"I'm just an ordinary person."

That's exactly the kind of person God has always used.

The question isn't:

“Am I impressive enough for God to use?”

The question is:

“Am I willing?”

God doesn't need perfect people.

He needs available people.

6. PEOPLE NEED TO SEE JESUS IN US

Our community doesn't need another church that only talks about Jesus.

They need to see Jesus.

They need to see love.

They need to see forgiveness.

They need to see compassion.

They need to see generosity.

They need to see integrity.

They need to see people who still have hope when life gets hard.

They need to see Christians who don't just talk about faith on Sunday but live it on Monday.

That's what makes our witness powerful.

Your life is preaching something.

The question is:

What is it preaching?

When people see you, do they see someone who has hope?

Do they see someone who forgives?

Do they see someone who loves people?

Do they see someone who trusts God?

Do they see someone who is different because Jesus has changed them?

A faith that reaches others isn't necessarily loud.

Sometimes it's as simple as:

“Can I pray for you?”

“How are you really doing?”

“I'd love for you to come to church with me.”

“I'm going to help you.”

“I'm here for you.”

Those simple moments can open doors for the Gospel.

7. WHO IS GOD PLACING IN YOUR LIFE?

Here's the question I want you to take home this week:

Who is God placing in my life that needs Jesus?

Not:

“Who needs Jesus?”

Because the answer to that is everybody.

But:

“Who has God specifically placed in my life?”

Think about one person.

Maybe it's a family member.

Maybe it's a coworker.

Maybe it's a neighbor.

Maybe it's somebody you haven't talked to in years.

Maybe it's somebody who doesn't like church.

Maybe it's somebody who has been hurt by the church.

Maybe it's somebody who looks like they have everything together but is falling apart inside.

Ask God:

“Lord, open my eyes to the people around me.”

Then ask:

“What can I do to reach them?”

Maybe it's a phone call.

Maybe it's lunch.

Maybe it's an invitation.

Maybe it's a conversation.

Maybe it's prayer.

Maybe it's simply being their friend.

Don't try to change everybody.

Ask God to help you reach one person.

Assembly of God Connection: A Church on Mission

As an Assembly of God church, we believe the mission of the church includes proclaiming the Gospel and reaching people with the message of Jesus Christ.

We are Pentecostal people.

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit.

But the power of the Holy Spirit was never given to us just so we could have a good church service.

Acts 1:8 connects the power of the Spirit directly to our witness:

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...”

Power for a purpose.

We are filled so we can go.

We are equipped so we can serve.

We are blessed so we can bless.

We are reached so we can reach.

We have been given the Gospel so we can share the Gospel.

Conclusion: Don't Keep It to Yourself

Think about what Jesus has done for you.

He forgave you.

He gave you hope.

He gave you new life.

He gave you purpose.

He gave you a family.

He gave you His Spirit.

He changed your life.

Why would we keep that to ourselves?

There is somebody who needs what God has done in you.

There is somebody who needs your story.

There is somebody who needs your encouragement.

There is somebody who needs your prayer.

There is somebody who needs to know that Jesus still saves.

And maybe God has placed **you** in their life for that very reason.

So this week, don't just ask:

“Where can I go to church?”

Ask:

“Where can I be the church?”

Don't just ask:

“Who can minister to me?”

Ask:

“Who can I minister to?”

Don't just ask:

“Who can pray for me?”

Ask:

“Who can I pray for?”

And most importantly:

Who is God placing in my life that needs Jesus?

Write down one name.

Pray for that person.

Reach out to that person.

Build the relationship.

Look for the opportunity.

And when God opens the door—

Tell them about Jesus.

Because **faith that has changed us should become faith that reaches others.**

Challenge for the Week

Take a piece of paper or your phone and write down the name of **one person** God has placed in your life who needs Jesus.

Then:

1. **Pray for them every day.**
2. **Look for an opportunity to connect with them.**
3. **Show them the love of Christ.**
4. **Invite them into your life and, when the opportunity comes, invite them to church.**
5. **Share your testimony of what Jesus has done for you.**

Final Thought

“We were not saved to sit. We were saved to go.”

Let's be a church that doesn't just gather people in.

Let's be a church that reaches people out there.

Let's carry Jesus beyond these walls.

Let's live as witnesses.

And let's believe God to use us to reach somebody who needs Him.