

## **Resurrection Relevance – Week 3 – “On a Mission”**

### **Introduction**

It seems that we often talk more about what Jesus can do for us than we do about what we can, and should, be doing for him. We sometimes forget that our journey of faith includes being sent by Jesus to continue his mission. Jesus sends us out into the world to be his hand, feet, and heart, helping the hurting and bringing hope to the hopeless as we share our faith. Our mission is to spread the Good News about salvation in and through Jesus to everyone who is willing to listen. While it is often tempting to think that someone else more suitable should be doing this work, or at least someone who is professionally trained, Jesus intends for everyone to be his witness in and to the world. We are God’s primary strategy, not his backup plan.

Feelings of inadequacy in this area are natural, but we should not allow our feelings to determine our actions. We do well to note that the disciples experienced some doubts even after Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to them. Jesus did not allow their doubts to influence his decision to send them out into the world to proclaim, teach, and baptize in his name. Our doubts indicate that we have more to learn about our faith, which is true at every age and stage of life.

It is important to remember that Jesus does not send us out into the world alone to do his work. During his earthly ministry, Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs to the towns and villages that he planned to visit (Luke 10:1-24). When they returned, they reported that “even the demons submit to us in your name.” Jesus promised to be with us “to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). He walks with us to help us bring others to him and teach them about him. This is the work of every follower of Jesus. Our “job” as Jesus’ disciples is to proclaim the gospel with our words and our actions until he returns in glory.

### **Opening Discussion:**

1. Share one thing that you found helpful from Sunday’s message.

### Study Time:

Jesus told his disciples that *“whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12 NIV)*. Jesus’ assertion that his disciples “will do even greater things” than him seems shocking at first but makes sense when we see it as referring to their post-resurrection ministry. They were able to offer the gift of salvation full and free in Jesus after he died on the cross for our sins and the sins of the world. The disciples fully understood Jesus’ message of salvation only after God raised him from the dead. He appeared to them afterwards and spent forty days with them. Jesus ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to live in them. This gave them the power to do his works and more. They became the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in and to the world.

1. Paul compares the work of representing Jesus in and to the world to the role of an ambassador. Read **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** and reflect on these questions:
  - a. Jesus reconciled us to God when he atoned for the sins of the world by sacrificing himself on the cross. What are some attitudes that can prevent us from seeking reconciliation in our relationships with others?
  - b. The Greek word translated “ambassadors” was used to refer to official envoys or representatives of the emperor. They were given the emperor’s authority to act on his behalf when necessary. What are some of the ways that we represent Christ in the world?
  - c. What are some of the ways that we act under the authority of Christ and in his behalf as we do the work of spreading the gospel?
2. Read **Acts 1:8** and reflect on what it means to be Jesus’ witnesses in and to the world on his behalf. What are some ways that we witness to the world about who Jesus is and what he does for us?

3. Read **Matthew 28:16-20** and reflect on what Jesus commands us to do when we spread the gospel in our daily lives. What role does our personal obedience have in this and how to we best show people what it means to obey Jesus daily?

**The command to make disciples includes being a disciple. We teach as we learn and show the world that we are disciples of Jesus in our words and actions. This is a lifelong process. There is never a point at which we stop being Jesus' disciples so long as we remain committed to him. Jesus lived in radical obedience to his heavenly Father. We do the same by living in radical obedience to him.**

1. How is making disciples different from being a disciple? How are they related to one another and how do they depend on one another?
2. We represent Christ to those around us whether we are at church, at work, or at the grocery store. What impact should this have on how we interact with others both inside and outside of the faith community?
3. Jesus' commission is the church's mission. He calls us to go forth and do his work in person. We support those who work in the mission field in our country and throughout the world but also need to understand that we are all in the mission field wherever we are and whatever we are doing. There are opportunities for sharing the good news about Jesus all around us. What are some what that we can share the gospel when we are out and about in the world?