

Daily Devotions

Day 1: You Are Already There

Reading: Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus did not say "wait." He said "go." Yet for much of church history, the instinct of believers has been to build a comfortable gathering place and hope the world wanders in. The Great Commission was never designed as an invitation for the lost to find us. It was a sending of the found to reach them. You do not need a program or an event to obey this command. You are already embedded in a world that needs the Gospel. Your workplace, your neighborhood, your daily routine — these are not interruptions to your mission. They are your mission field.

Day 2: The God Who Draws

Reading: John 6:44 and John 12:32

Salvation is not the result of clever programs or persuasive arguments. John 6:44 makes clear that no one comes to Christ without the Father's supernatural drawing. But John 12:32 reveals the breathtaking scope of that drawing — Jesus declared that He would draw all people to Himself. This means God is already at work in the lives of people around you right now. Your neighbor, your coworker, your estranged family member — none of them are outside the reach of a pursuing Savior. You are not responsible for saving anyone. You are responsible for being available to the One who already is.

Day 3: Your Oikos Is Not an Accident

Reading: Mark 5:18-20 and Luke 19:9

When Jesus healed the demon-possessed man, the man's first impulse was to follow Jesus and leave everything behind. Jesus redirected him — not away from mission, but toward the most strategic mission field available to him: his own household, his own people, his oikos. When Zacchaeus believed, Jesus declared that salvation had come to his home. In both cases, the immediate sphere of influence was the first arena of impact. The people God has placed in your relational world are not there by coincidence. They share your life for a reason. That reason is larger than friendship, larger than convenience, and far more eternal than you may have considered.

Day 4: God's Heart for the Lost

Reading: Luke 19:10 and 2 Peter 3:9

Luke 19:10 captures the entire mission of Jesus in a single sentence — He came to seek and to save the lost. He was not passive. He sought. He moved toward people others had given up on. Second Peter 3:9 reveals that the patience of God before Christ's return is itself an act of mercy — He is waiting because He desires that none should perish. The God of the universe is not indifferent to the people in your oikos. He is actively, patiently, relentlessly pursuing them. When you pray for a lost friend or share a word of grace with a struggling coworker, you are not acting alone. You are joining a God who never stopped moving toward them.

Day 5: The Formula We Forgot

Reading: Acts 16:29-34 and 1 Timothy 2:1-4

The Philippian jailer's story did not end with one man's conversion. His entire household believed and was baptized that same night. This was not unusual in the early church — it was the pattern. Oikos after oikos came to faith as one person's transformation became the testimony that reached everyone around them. First Timothy 2:1-4 calls believers to pray for all people, anchored in the truth that God desires everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. The formula has never changed. God uses transformed people to reach the people those transformed people already know. You are not too ordinary for this. You are exactly who God had in mind.

Deacons on Call

David Barks and Royce Blair

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **First Youth:** Wednesdays MS at 5:30, HS at 6:45

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

to be SENT: Perspective

Matthew 28:19

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

to be **SENT**: Perspective

MATTHEW 28:19

1. Approximately 95% of us came to Christ primarily through the influence of someone we _____.

2. OIKOS: “extended _____”

> A household usually contained four generations, including men, married women, unmarried daughters, slaves of both sexes, persons without citizenship and ‘sojourners,’ or resident foreign workers.

3. God wants to demonstrate His love and grace to them all through _____.

4. Without the _____ assistance of God in this world, no one comes to Jesus for salvation.

5. God is _____ placing people in your life for YOU to impact.

6. Every Christian has an _____.

> Jesus never meant for our church building to be a landing strip. It’s supposed to be a _____.

7. You don’t have to go out into a lost world ... _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): John 6:33; John 12:32; Luke 19:10; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Mark 5:19; Luke 19:9; John 4:53; Mark 2:15; Acts 11:14; Matthew 28:19
Reference Works: 8 to 15: The World is Smaller Than You Think (Tom Mercer); Common Sense is the New Brilliance (Tom Mercer); Kingdom Principles for Church Growth (Gene Mims); Concentric Circles of Concern (W. Oscar Thompson)

Discussion Questions

1. Think back to how you came to faith in Jesus. Was there a specific person or relationship that played a significant role? Share that story with the group.
2. Read **Matthew 28:18-20**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. As one would define it here at First Plains, what is an oikos?
4. Who comes to mind when you think about your oikos? Are there people in that group who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus?
5. John 6:44 reminds us that no one comes to Jesus without the Father drawing them, while John 12:32 makes clear that Jesus is drawing all people to Himself. What does it mean to you personally that God is already at work in the lives of the people in your oikos, even before you say a single word?
6. The sermon drew a distinction between the biblical word **ekklesia**, and the word **kirka**. How has your own thinking about "church" leaned more toward a place than a people? What would it look like practically to shift that?
7. Tom Mercer said, "*Jesus never meant for our church building to be a landing strip. It's supposed to be a launch site.*" What does that distinction mean to you?
8. Patrick said we have "*unwittingly, yet gradually allowed God's formula for building His church to fade into the background*" and "*relegated His mission to the lost to some kind of optional church program.*" Do you agree with that assessment? What evidence do you see of it, and what evidence do you see of it being reversed, if any?
9. Is there someone in your sphere of influence right now who you sense God may be drawing toward Himself? What has been holding you back from engaging more intentionally with that person?
10. Take a few minutes this week to write down the names of the 8 to 15 people God has placed in your relational world who do not yet have a personal relationship with Jesus. Be specific. Think about family members, coworkers, neighbors, people you see regularly in the community, and friends outside of church.