

Luke 6:39-40

Sometimes when we consider the Great Commission and the command of Acts 1:8 we can feel like we are feeling our way blindly along hoping for the best. How do we obey the Great Commission? The best thing I can come up with, is simply, follow the example of Jesus.

Read/Pray

There has never been a better example of a missionary, preacher, disciple maker than Jesus Himself. If we feel like we are feeling our way along blindly, then we need to open our eyes and look to the one we are called to follow: Jesus Christ Himself.

With that said, I want us to look at an overall broad stroke of Jesus' ministry and I want us to consider how we can emulate that today. 4 major elements of Jesus ministry that stand out in the gospels.

## **I. Praying**

Prayer clearly characterized Jesus' ministry.

1. Over and over again we see Jesus slipping away to be alone in order to pray
2. We see Him rising early in order to pray
3. We see Him staying up late, in order to pray.
4. Prayer absolutely characterized the life and ministry of Jesus from start to finish.
5. It is no wonder that He instructs us to pray as part of our missions strategy

### Matthew 9:35-38

1. Jesus preached the gospel, the good news, the optimistic hope filled gospel of the Kingdom v35
2. What He saw however, was anything but optimistic and hopeful. He saw the crowds. v36
  - a. They were distressed: battered, bruised, mangled, ripped apart, worn out, and exhausted.
  - b. They were dispirited: downcast...literally dead or helpless.
  - c. They were directionless: like sheep without a shepherd, they have been left to the wolves.
3. He felt compassion.
  - a. The word means feeling with, feeling for, sympathy.
  - b. The word literally points us to the gut.
4. What Jesus Determined
  - a. The Harvest is Plentiful v37a
  - b. The Laborers are Few v37b
  - c. There is an Answer v38
    1. Pray
    2. Earnestly Pray
    3. Earnestly Pray for Ekbalo: Squeeze out, fling out, send out.

How do we obey the Great Commission? Pray, pray, pray, pray! Let's pray now for the unreached/unengaged.

## II. Giving

Jesus was characterized by giving.

1. He gave of Himself every waking moment of every day it seems
2. Just read Mark's gospel and you will see that Jesus hardly stopped...he seldom got a break
  - a. He is giving Himself for others over and over again.
  - b. John 21:25 *And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written*

If Jesus was characterized by giving of Himself for the good of others, then we must follow His example.

1. We must give of ourselves, our time, talents, and treasures, for the good of others if we are to obey the Great Commission.
2. Matthew 25:14-46

## III. Going

Jesus was always on the move. What was He going from town to town doing?

1. Mark 1:38-39 *He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for." 39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.*

2. Jesus' ministry was characterized by going and preaching...preaching!

If we are going to be obedient to the Great Commission, we must go preach. And if we are going to go preach, we must understand what preaching means.

1. Think of what you think of when you think of preaching. A pulpit on a platform with a pastor and pews of people with Bibles open ready to listen and take notes...but what does the Bible say?
2. The word preach, in its various forms, is used roughly 109 times in the New Testament.
3. Almost every time it either explicitly or implicitly points to proclaiming the gospel message in the wilderness, in the streets, in the marketplace to the poor, the lost, and the hurting.
4. Only 3 or 4 times for sure does it refer to preaching or teaching the church.
5. This is what Jesus sent His followers out to do...to go preach

What would it look like if we put as much emphasis on the NT author's definition and description of preaching as we put on the 21st century idea?

## IV. Sending

We do not need to miss this one point. Jesus sent out.

1. He prayed, He gave, He went with the gospel message.
2. Those who heard His message and followed Him, He invested in more fully.
3. He taught them and trained them and then sent them out.

Mark 3:14 *And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He could send them out to preach*

1. 2 Timothy 2:2 *The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

2. Mark 16:20 *And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.*

We must make training up leaders and sending out leaders a priority.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, I want us to see some practical applications and one last text that will clarify what we really need if we are to carry out the Great Commission.

There has never been a better example of a missionary, preacher, disciple maker than Jesus Himself.

1. How did Jesus make disciples and reach the world? Praying, Giving, Going, and Sending.
3. We must do one, two, three, or all four of these in some combination and we do it 100%
  - a. Everyone can at least pray...lost and unreached people/missionaries/pastors etc.
  - b. Give...as you give to this church: CP/IMB/NAMB/a line item for FBC missions so lean up your budgets!! Mission Surge. Baptist Global Response (giving and being)
  - c. Go...invite people to church (9 out of 10 said they would come if invited per Rainer) tracts to give out, tracts to facilitate sharing, **d groups training next week**
  - d. Sending...work together to locate those being called, encourage them, train them, and send them. Are you sensing God could be calling you to go long term?

The real need we have: Mark 7:32-37

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?