

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 9-21-14 AM NOTES  
"MAKING DISCIPLES: AN ON-MISSION MINDSET"  
VARIOUS SCRIPTURES  
#3 in Series, "The Making, Maturing, and Mobilizing of Disciples"

**Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)** "19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."

Mindset—a set of beliefs, a way of thinking, or an approach to life that determines one's behavior and outlook.

**2 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)** "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him."

**John 10:10b (NKJV)** "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."

I. The Need That Calls for an On-Mission Mindset

People Group—a group with a common ancestry, language, and culture

There are 11,235 distinct people groups.

There are 6,545 of those people groups that are unreached with the Gospel (less than 2% evangelical Christian).

These 6,545 unreached people groups have a total population of 4,030,861,610.

Of the 6,545 unreached people groups, there are 3,004 of them that are unengaged by any church or mission agency.

The population of those 3,004 unreached unengaged people groups is 208,042,275.

In the "Bible Belt" there is about 1 evangelical church for every 750 people.

In New Jersey and New York there is 1 evangelical church for every 6,000-7,500 people.

**Mark 16:15 (NKJV)** "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

II. The Historical Examples of an On-Mission Mindset

"We are but of yesterday, and we have filled every place among you—cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market-places, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum—we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods."

—Tertullian about 200 AD

"[In the early church] it became the most sacred duty of a new convert to diffuse among his friends and relations the inestimable blessing which he had received."

—Edward Gibbon

"The most numerous and successful missionaries of the Christian religion were not the regular teachers but Christians themselves, in virtue of their loyalty and courage...It was characteristic of this religion that everyone who seriously confessed the faith proved of service to its [message]...We cannot hesitate to believe that the great mission of Christianity was in reality accomplished by means of informal missionaries."

—Adolph Harnack

“This is how the Gospel penetrated the world during the first century: through self-denying, Spirit-empowered disciples of Jesus who were making disciples of Jesus. Followers of Christ were fishing for men. Disciples were making disciples. Christians were not known for casual association with Christ and His church; instead, they were known for complete abandonment to Christ and His cause. The Great Commission was not a cause for them to consider but a command for them to obey. And though they faced untold trials and unthinkable persecution, they experienced unimaginable joy as they joined with Jesus in the advancement of His kingdom.”  
—David Platt

### III. The Power of an On-Mission Mindset

**Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

### IV. The Transition Required for an On-Mission Mindset

### V. The Reward of an On-Mission Mindset

**Matthew 28:20b (NKJV)** “...and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

**Psalms 67:6-7 (NASB)** “<sup>6</sup>The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. <sup>7</sup>God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.”

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“MAKING DISCIPLES: AN ON MISSION MINDSET”  
VARIOUS SCRIPTURES  
#3 in Series, “The Making, Maturing, and Mobilizing of Disciples”

Review: In part one of this series, we looked at our mission. We saw that our mission as a church and as individuals is the Great Commission – **Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)** “<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” In Part two of the series, we looked at where we begin in making disciples. We saw that we evangelize non-believers, establish believers in the faith by giving them the basics they need to grow, and then we plug them in the church while we seek to evangelize more non-believers.

Today, we will see that disciples are made when we have an “On Mission Mindset. **When I use the word “mindset”, I am speaking of a set of beliefs, a way of thinking, or an approach to life that determines one’s behavior and outlook.**

How many have been on a mission trip of any kind? When the mission trip is far from home and over a longer period of time, something happens that is amazing to watch. We recognize that we are way out of our comfort zone, so we have people praying for us, we examine our own heart, we set our minds on the Lord, and we pour our lives into the people we have gone to reach with the Gospel. For several years (five, I think) Kathy and I took some High School Seniors on their spring break to either Guatemala or the Dominican Republic to work with our IMB missionaries in sharing the Gospel door to door. I would watch as these 17 and 18 year olds that had been focused on where to go to college, sports, boyfriends and girlfriends, become totally focused on the lost and the sharing of the Gospel and making disciples. The missionaries would say year after year, “We’ve never seen young people like these.” I have watched people go on mission trips and come back changed – recognizing for the first time in their Christian life that God could use them to bring someone to Christ and then disciple them in the basics. But typically something happens a few days after we get home. Many times that “mission high” starts fading when we get back into the daily routines of life in the Bible belt. We see our sense of daring, our living on the edge trusting Jesus to do through us what we could never do for ourselves begin to vanish. Most people are changed at least some and that makes all of the money we spend on missions and to supplement trips all worth it, But why does it have to fade at all? Why can’t we begin to see life as a mission trip? Why do we have to come back and slide into old patterns and self-centered living? Why do we have to wait until we go on a mission trip to live life as a disciple maker? Why can’t we just live “on mission” and then the only reason we would travel to another country would be to export what we are already doing here? That is what I want to talk about today – an On Mission Mindset. Learn this: LIFE IS A MISSION TRIP! Maybe we need to get some T-shirts to wear to remind us of that. You may be thinking, “That sounds good, but it’s just not realistic”. Why not? I really believe that’s what God desires for us – to see our school, our workplace, our neighborhood as the mission field. I do not know the number of times that someone said to me about Don Edens who went to be with the Lord a couple of weeks ago: “He saw his job as his mission field”. It is not God’s will that every Christian quit their job and go to the foreign mission field to live in another culture where we must learn a new language. Your school, your job, and even your own family **are** your mission field. Paul said it like this: **2 Timothy 2:4 (ESV)** “No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.” That is not saying that you don’t have a vocation through which you care for your family and are able to purchase the necessities of life. It is not saying that you shouldn’t care for your family and mow your lawn and buy groceries. He is saying that we are to focus on **the mission** in all of life and as we work, play, and function daily, we see our primary focus is making disciples of Jesus Christ.

I don’t want to be like the person who was asked by *Gospel for Asia* missionary K. P. Yohannan, “What are you doing?” The answer was “I go to school”. The question came back, “Why do you go to school?” He answered, “To study”. “Why do you study?” He answered, “I study to get smart”. “Why do you want to get smart?” I want to get smart so I can get a good job.” “Why do you want a good job?” I want a good job so I can make lots of money”. “Why do you want to want to make lots of money?” “I want to buy food.” “Why do you want to buy food?” “I want to buy food so I can eat.” “Why do you want to eat?” I want to eat so I can live.” “Why do you live?” At this point the person answering became very quiet. Finally he said, “Sir, I live to die”. That is the life that is not lived on mission. Compare that bleak line of reasoning to **John 10:10b (NKJV)** “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” What are you doing? Why? Where is the on mission mindset? My prayer is that this message will be a marker in many lives as the time when the light came on and your approach to life changed to an “on mission mindset”.

## I. The Need That Calls for an On Mission Mindset

The massive lostness in the world is staggering. Let's start with the big picture and then bring it down to the area right around us. There are 11,235 distinct people groups (a common ancestry, language, and culture) in the world. 6,545 of those people groups are unreached (less than 2% evangelical Christians) with a population of 4,030,861,610. Of those 6,545 people groups there are 3,004 of them that are not only unreached, but also unengaged. That basically means that no mission organization, no church is working with them. One that two of our men hope to visit in October in West Africa has zero known Christians! Those 3,004 unreached and unengaged people groups represent 208,042,275 people (over 2,000 Neyland stadiums full of people who have virtually no access to the Gospel). [Source: *IMB website*, [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)].

Let's move from the world to the United States of America. The USA has the third largest number of lost people in the world (behind China and India). Let's look local – in Knox County. Even though most of the people in Knox County are connected to a church, the overwhelming majority are only connected on the surface. The last statistics I heard is that less than a third of the population of Knox County is in a church on any given Sunday. Most people would say, “At least in the USA there are lots of churches”. Not as many as you think and a good portion of those buildings you see are meeting places for almost dead churches (some that already are dead – they just don't know it). Let me give you some more statistics. Today, even in the Bible belt there is about 1 evangelical church for every 750 people. However in states like New Jersey and New York, there is one evangelical church for every 6,000-7,500 people. Some whole cities have so few evangelical Christians that they qualify as an unreached people group (less than 2% evangelical Christians). [Source: *Life on Mission*, Page 19-20].

Lostness pervades the world. Lostness pervades our own country. Lostness pervades our own county! The sad fact is that it's getting worse every year. America's evangelical population loses 2.6 million people a year. Southern Baptists report over 16 million members, but only 6.1 million attend a worship service every Sunday [*Life on Mission*, page 33-34]. Statistics from our own denomination show that in 1982 with 36,302 churches, we baptized 411,554 people. In 2013 with 46,125 churches, we baptized 310,368 people. In other words, with 9,823 more churches, we baptized 101,186 less people! The world is filled with lostness.

For some of you these numbers don't really communicate at all. Let me paint you a different type picture. If you took all of the lost people in the world and put them in a line giving one foot per person, how long would the line be? Let's start in Powell, Tennessee and go west to Nashville, Memphis, Texas, California, and to the Pacific Ocean. Would it really be that far? Keep going. Let's line them up across the Pacific to Asia and across Asia, through the mid-East, through Europe, across the Atlantic ocean, to the East coast of the USA and back to Powell. Would it be that long? We're just getting started. Now take that line around the world and 24 more lines just like it and you would have a line 25 times around the world that includes all those who are lost. With that picture in your mind, listen to **Mark 16:15 (NKJV)** “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

## II. The Historical Examples of an On Mission Mindset

Perhaps you are hearing this and you are thinking, “But really, what can we do about it? People have their lives set; few will ever change to this ‘on Mission’ mindset”. We do have an historical precedence for this. There was a generation that did have that mindset. I am speaking of the first century church. They had this mindset and what God accomplished through them is nothing short of amazing. Let me give you some details. The historian Edward Gibbon (who was no friend of Christianity) tells us that Christianity had reached the shores of India by 49 AD and the borders of China by 61 AD [James Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, Page 651]. In about 200 AD, the early church Father Tertullian wrote to his non-Christian contemporaries, “We are but of yesterday, and we have filled every place among you – cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market-places, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace, senate, forum, – we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods” [Boice, Page 651]. How did that happen? Let's go back to the historian, Edward Gibbon. “[In the early church] it became the most sacred duty of a new convert to diffuse among his friends and relations the inestimable blessing which he had received.”

[Boice, Page 651]. That is an on mission mindset! A well known church historian, Adolph Harnack, said referring to the early church, “The most numerous and successful missionaries of the Christian religion were not the regular teachers but Christians themselves, in virtue of their loyalty and courage. ...It was characteristic of this religion that everyone who seriously confessed the faith proved of service to its [message]...We cannot hesitate to believe that the great mission of Christianity was in reality accomplished by means of informal missionaries” [Boice, Page 651]. By “informal missionaries” he was speaking of people like you with an on mission mindset! It was not primarily the vocational missionaries or preachers, but church members who made a living by their vocation but as they were going shared the Gospel and made disciples. I hereby commission each of you “informal missionaries”!

After Pentecost – the birth of the church – through the people impacted, the church began to explode! By 350 AD, there were over 30 million followers of Christ with an estimated world population of 160 million. A more modern day example is China. In 1950 China claimed one million followers of Christ. After the church was driven underground by the “cultural revolution” in 1992, the State Statistical Bureau of China indicated that there were 75 million Christians. The Gospel was not spread by clergy; it was spread by Christians with an on mission mindset.

David Platt, the new President of the IMB said this: “This is how the Gospel penetrated the world during the first century: through self-denying, Spirit-empowered disciples of Jesus who were making disciples of Jesus. Followers of Christ were fishing for men. Disciples were making disciples. Christians were not known for casual association with Christ and His church; instead, they were known for complete abandonment to Christ and His cause. The Great Commission was not a cause for them to consider but a command for them to obey. And though they faced untold trials and unthinkable persecution, they experienced unimaginable joy as they joined with Jesus in the advancement of His kingdom.” [David Platt, Foreword in *Life on Mission*, Page 12]. I want to be a part of a movement like that before I die.

We have looked at the need that calls for an on mission mindset and the historical examples of an on mission mindset.

### III. The Power for an On Mission Mindset

My favorite of the five commissions Jesus gave to His church is the one He gave in **Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Last Sunday night in our Ephesians series, I spoke on Ephesians 5:18 – being filled with the Holy Spirit. I would encourage you to go on line and listen to that or download the manuscript and read it. The power for an on mission mindset is God the Spirit. The primary reason He dwells in believers and fills those who surrender to His control is that you might live with an on mission mindset! Don’t you dare say that this mindset is just not something you can do. You cannot in your own wisdom and power, but you can in His power. To deny that is to live in unbelief and to grieve the Spirit who dwells in you by refusing to believe that He can do the work that the father sent Him to do.

### IV. The Transition Required for an On Mission Mindset

The transition we must make is to move from a “ministry mindset” to a “disciple-making mindset”. My intention here is not to put down or scrap all programs and ministries in the church. I don’t even want to change our use of the word ministry in contexts like worship ministry, Sunday School Ministry, or mobile home park ministry. I simply want you to see your ministry from the perspective of making disciples. Instead of seeing yourself as a part of the preschool ministry, you must begin to see yourself as doing pre-discipleship with preschoolers. They may not be mature enough or have the capacity to be a convert to Christ who is now following Him, but they can learn who He is, learn songs about Him, see His kindness and love flowing through those who teach them and care for them. You must not see yourself as just a children’s, youth, or adult Sunday School teacher. You are making disciples. You are not just a part of the worship ministry; you are developing disciples by teaching them and leading them in how to worship. Worship, by the way, is the chief reason that our Lord saves us. Salvation turns rebels into worshippers!

We need to grow and develop in that worship. You are not just working in the mobile home park ministry; you are making disciples at Dogwood mobile home park, or wherever you have invested your life. When you leave the church building, you don't just turn off that mindset of making disciples; you just continue it at your work, at home in discipling your family, at school in seeking to disciple your classmates. Are you getting the idea? The primary role of the Pastors and ministry directors here at FBC is to equip the saints to make disciples. Our role is to create a culture where the norm is disciples making disciples who will make disciples everywhere they go! Every program or ministry must have a link to making disciples in pre-discipleship or making disciples or it should be set aside.

By the way, what disciple making ministry are you involved in through the church? There are lots of openings – check the connection card and if no one has contacted you in a week or two, please call me and I will make sure you get that call.

We have seen the need that calls for an on mission mindset, the historical examples of an on mission mindset, the power for an on mission mindset, and the transition required for an on mission mindset.

#### V. The Reward of an On Mission Mindset

I believe that the greatest of many rewards for an on mission mindset is that we experience the unique sense of Christ's presence with us when we are making disciples that is unlike any other sense of His presence. Do you remember that last line of the Great Commission in **Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)** "...and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age"? Do you sense a definite and real closeness to God this morning? If the answer is "no", the reason may be that you have neglected or rebelled against an on mission mindset.

#### CONCLUSION

Fulfilling the Great Commission is expensive for the church. It is unbelievably expensive. Going to where the lost are is time consuming and it costs a lot of money. Could it be that this is the reason that God has blessed America with more riches than any other nation? **Psalms 67:6-7 (NASB)** "6 The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. 7 God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him." Wow! Did you ever think that maybe God has blessed us not so that we could build bigger houses, buy nicer and newer cars, take more glamorous exotic vacations, finance our very expensive hobbies, but so that we could be the people that goes to the hard places, to the expensive places that the ends of the earth might know and fear Him?