



Outwardly Focused

Message Notes, June 10, 2018

Matthew 9:35-38, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15

In Matthew 9:35-10:1, Jesus sees the multitudes and is deeply moved for they are “harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd.” He turns to his disciples and urges them to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. This is followed by Jesus sending them out to proclaim the good news of the kingdom.

Today we revisit our harvest theme for this year as we look at the “outward focus” of our journey and identity as a church. A heart for the world (local and global) – this is us!

The outward focus of our church is at the heart of our vision and is captured in our Mission Statement: “To awaken ordinary people to extraordinary life through Christ-centered community.” To be sure, we are all ordinary people who gather here every Sunday for worship, but there are millions of ordinary people beyond our walls. God calls us outward because He desires extraordinary life for them also.

Our outward focus is fully expressed in our 6th core value:

Intentional Outreach: Because God loves people who are lost, we love people who are lost.

Demonstrated by personally and corporately focusing time, attention, and resources toward people outside the church, locally, regionally and globally.

Explore together these foundational scriptures that undergird this value:

- Matthew 9:35-38 – Called into the harvest of “sheep without a shepherd” with prayerful compassion
- Acts 1:8 – We are empowered witnesses in the world
- Romans 10:14-15 – How will people believe if we don’t go and tell them of our Lord and His gospel?

Pastor Derrick reminded us of our Lord’s “Great Commission” in Matthew 28:18-20, when He boldly charged his disciples (and thereby us as well) “to go into all the world and make disciples.”

That’s what it’s all about. That’s why we exist as a church – to awaken ordinary people to the extraordinary life of following Jesus, walking by his Spirit, being disciples!

May we all open our hearts to this call of our Lord (to the fields around us rich with harvest). May we pray and ask God to show us where to get involved or who we can pursue with love and hope. May we check out the specific opportunities available through our church this summer. May we all find our way to join in this joyous privilege of “making disciples.”