

Matthew 28:18-20

The answer to where is...

1. In Jerusalem...right here in our circles
2. In Judea and Samaria...right here and nearby outside of our circles of comfort
3. The Uttermost parts of the earth...all the nations

I. Jerusalem

1. Go...literally, as you are going.
2. Make learners.
 - a. Disciples vs Believers
 - b. John 6:66 *As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*
 - c. Judas was a disciple...but not a believer
3. Baptize disciples who convert to believers.
4. Teach them to obey all
5. Remember the Lord is with you as you go.

D Groups and Robert Fortenberry, August 26-29 will take the place of Blueprint.

1. Don't let the fancy name fool you. It isn't something cool or new.
2. It is simply making disciples.

II. Judea and Samaria

The percentage of people living in the USA who were born outside the country reached 13.7% in 2015 and is projected to hit a record 14.9% in 2025

1. Acts 17:26-27 *and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us*

2. Our role is to embrace the nations that He brings to our door. But how?

John 4:3-42

A. He was Intentional v3-6

1. Jews usually walked around Samaria when traveling between Judea and Galilee.
2. He "had to" travel through there. He put himself at a prime location...a well.
3. **There are population segments around us with whom we rarely come in contact unless we make a point of doing so.**

B. He was engaging v7-27

1. Jesus was interested in the woman as a person and as a Samaritan
 - a. Jesus showed an interest in her, her family, her beliefs, her culture, and her hurts and needs.
 - b. Just showing interest in someone can open such a huge door.
2. **There are population segments around us that never have an American befriend them, much less a believer.**

C. He was strategic v28-39

1. He saw beyond the woman in front of Him
2. He saw her as a catalyst to reach her family, friends, and community

D. This was Necessary v40-42

1. These Samaritans needed to see Jesus and hear from Jesus to believe in Jesus
2. We must understand that a Samaritan would never have walked into a Jerusalem synagogue to hear the law...so Jesus brought it to Samaria.
 - a. It is the same for the most part with our Samaria
 - b. They aren't going to walk up in our church...but for them to be invited into a home?? Wow
 - c. The Saudi student who had no one to give his gift to
 1. Genesis 18:1-15
 2. Hebrews 13:2 *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

People are all around us from other nations.

1. We do not have to get on an airplane to go to them.
2. We do not have to spend a lot of money or even learn another language.
3. We simply need to be willing to open our doors and entertain strangers for the sake of the gospel.

Adopt a Student...ESL Friendship program. Paperwork

III. Ends of the Earth

1. This is a commission to get the gospel, not to as many people as possible, but to as many people groups as possible.
 - a. There are roughly 6000 unreached people groups on earth totaling more than 2 billion people.
 1. Unreached does not equal unsaved. There are unsaved people everywhere!
 2. Unreached means that they have little to no access to the gospel.
 3. In Northern Yemen there is a people group of 8 million people! In that people group there are roughly 20-30 known believers.
 - a. We have more people in one Sunday school class in this church than they have in their whole people group of 8 million people.
 - b. Now, the population of TN is just under 7 million people.
 - c. Could you imagine how your SS class would feel if you were the only believers in the whole state of TN?
 - d. This is what it feels like to be one of the few believers in an unreached people group.
 4. No wonder a missionary to Yemen once said, *"I have but one life to burn and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."* (That same missionary died 6 months after arriving.)

b. There are roughly 1200 unreached, unengaged people groups

1. They have no gospel witness. No church, no preacher, no missionary.
 2. *Does anyone deserve to hear the gospel twice, as long as there are those who have never heard it once?*
2. We are obligated to lay our lives down, our families down, and this church down and do whatever we need to do to get the gospel to the ends of the earth because that is what our king has commanded us to do!
 3. We are working to give you a few opportunities to get involved overseas in the coming year
 4. The work of your missions committee to adopt an unreached and unengaged people group.

Conclusion:

Acts 17:26-27 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us

1. God has put us here for such a time as this
2. We are part of the wealthiest society the world has ever known...with resources, opportunities, and tools the world has never known.
3. Will we use our lives and our resources for Christ or for ourselves?...that is the question.

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?