

FOLLOW ME

EXPERIENCING LIFE WITH JESUS



FOLLOW ME

Part 12: Go | Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

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**True Life and Purpose is found in God's Mission:
rescuing and restoring our lost and broken world back to God.**

THE GREAT COMMISSION

- Jesus just rose from the dead. The disciples were bewildered, afraid, some even doubtful, and yet excited. And then Jesus gave them these "marching orders."
- Resources: "*Unimaginable*" by Jeremiah Johnston, "*The Rise of the Early Church*" by Rodney Stark, "*Tears of the Saints*" (YouTube), "*Never the Same, Celebrating 50 Years Since Peace Child*" (YouTube), "*Six Ways to Reach God's World*" (YouTube)

WHAT IS GOD'S MISSION?

- God's Mission is rescuing and restoring a lost and broken world back to God. It is a mission that flows from God's heart. And to understand God's heart, we need to understand the story of reality – CREATION | FALL | RESCUE | RESTORATION.

CREATION

- Genesis 1:1-3, God's mission starts in the first lines of scripture. Where it was formless, God brought order. Where it was empty, He brought life. Where it was dark, He brought light. The goodness of God's creation reflects the very nature of God as a true artist. It reflects the good, the truth, and the beauty of God's nature and His mission.

"We do not want merely to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words — to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it." C.S. Lewis, "*The Weight of Glory*"

FALL

- It is absolutely critical to believe in the fall. The world will say we are really not that fallen or broken. We just need to get back into the "Garden" or create paradise now. But that is the illusion. Our relationship with God has been severed because of our lost and broken hearts – it is a heart problem, and we need a rescue.

RESCUE

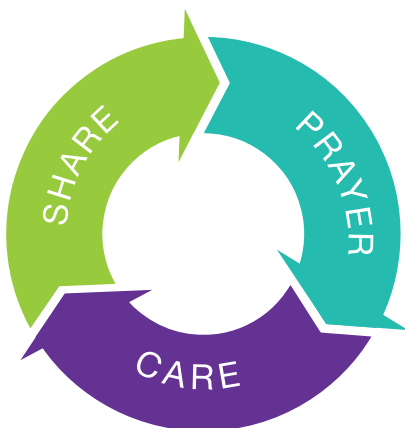
- The rescue does not start with Jesus. God started the rescue in the Garden – Genesis 3:15, 21.
- The greater our understanding of the fall and the depth of our sin, the greater our need for a Savior, and the greater our understanding of the height of His love for us.

RESTORATION

- The story does not end with God rescuing us. He is also restoring us and the world to make it whole. His restoration of us starts with being “born again” and leads us to become more like Jesus.
- God desires for restoration to begin now. It is a reflection of what we pray in the “Lord’s Prayer” – “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” – to experience LIFE with Jesus now, and what will ultimately be fulfilled in the end (Revelation 7:9, 21:1-4).

Jesus invites us to “GO” on mission with Him, empowered by the Holy Spirit, rescuing and restoring our lost and broken world back to God.

“To be missional today requires that lay Christians be equipped by their churches to do three things: (1) to be a verbal witness to the Gospel in their web of relationships, (2) to love their neighbors and do justice within their neighborhoods and city, and (3) to integrate their faith with their work in order to engage culture through their vocations.” Timothy Keller, “Center Church”



Prayer: _____

Care: _____

Share: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (FOR SMALL GROUPS OR THE DINNER TABLE):



Do you think that the world is lost and broken? How have you see this around you and in your life?



Is God's light shining in your life? How does His light need to shine in your life these days?



How does He want to shine His light through you? Who do you need to pray for, care for, and share with?