

Jesus' Great Commission? How could you encourage and help the church – our church – to respond to The Great Commission? Meditate on these questions and write your response here.

### Thursday, May 21

Read Matthew 28:16-20. Read also Matthew 10:1-7 and Matthew 15:22-28. Jesus wasn't always all about a mission to the world in Matthew's gospel. Pastor Jack mentioned how Matthew demonstrated a progression in which Jesus proclaimed his mission only to the lost sheep of Israel but, of course, by end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is sending his disciples into all the world.

This progression demonstrates the humanity of Jesus and how he grew in his understanding and wisdom. (See Luke 2:40) How does this progression make you feel about Jesus? How does it inspire you? Contemplate what it means to grow in your faith and be more like Christ. Write your thoughts here.

### Friday, May 22

Read Philippians 2:4-11. In creating worship experiences and a community that is focused on those outside of the community, we may have to make sacrifices. As Paul writes, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." (Verses 3-4) What is your comfort level in sacrificing your preference so that the needs of others will be met? What are you willing to give up so that others will have the opportunity to know the joy of a life lived in light of God's grace; a life lived in companionship with Jesus the Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit? Write your ideas here.

## Message Notes – May 17, 2020

### *The Right Passion\**

- I. Why do we \_\_\_\_\_?
  - A. The Rev. Cathy Townley "The most modern and simple definition of worship I have ever heard is that worship is our \_\_\_\_\_ with God."
  - B. Worship shapes our understanding of \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore shapes our understanding of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. And so we gather seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ with God and seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ with others.
  - D. The church has an \_\_\_\_\_; the issue is whether or not the church's \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
    1. It's been said that the church is the only organization that exists solely for the benefit of \_\_\_\_\_.
    2. And so worship services are the gathering of disciples, both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. The final words of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew's Gospel, are called The Great Commission and obviously there are \_\_\_\_\_ inherent in this final directive of Jesus.
  - A. For the church to have any success in reaching others with the teachings and good news of Jesus, we have to communicate in ways that are \_\_\_\_\_ relevant.
  - B. Therefore our worship has to be culturally relevant as we have to \_\_\_\_\_ worship to meet new people where they are in life.
  - C. If we are to respond to Jesus' Great Commission in \_\_\_\_\_ ways, we need to constantly be willing to give Jesus to others; and we must do so in ways that meet others in the place where they

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\*Matthew 28:16-20 and Philippians 2:4-11

currently live and exist – to be culturally relevant to them.

- III. What is at the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' Great Commission? I suppose you could answer that in a variety of ways.
- A. I believe to discover The Right Passion for the church in understanding his Great Commission is to understand Jesus's \_\_\_\_\_ as recorded in Matthew's Gospel.
  - B. Jesus wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ all about a mission to the world in Matthew's gospel.
  - C. There it is – the \_\_\_\_\_ point in Matthew's gospel and in Jesus' life.
    - 1. The right passion is not exclusiveness, or \_\_\_\_\_, or a static, stagnant understanding of what God is doing in the world.
    - 2. It's about people – \_\_\_\_\_ people – it's about relationships.
- IV. When we think of \_\_\_\_\_ we are very passionate about a lot of things.
- A. We are passionate about the \_\_\_\_\_ of our worship, the version of the scripture we use, we will do battle about the type of \_\_\_\_\_ we use and the hymns we sing, we'll angst over the \_\_\_\_\_ of the service and how long it should be.
  - B. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith we have to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.
  - C. And how do we do that? By having the right passion for \_\_\_\_\_.

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, May 18**

Why do we worship? Have you ever asked yourself that question? What is the purpose of worship? Sure, we enjoy being

with family and friends at church, but isn't worship more than that? Perhaps we should ask related questions. What do we hope to get out of worship when we come together? What can we contribute to worship? There were certainly a lot of ideas shared during the message about why we worship. How would you answer that question? Why do we worship? Write your thoughts here.

### **Tuesday, May 19**

Pastor Jack reflected on a thought derived from Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer wrote in his book, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, "The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."

In a discussion about worship, it is helpful to remember that worship is a gathering of disciples, old and new. It makes sense then, that as new people come to worship, we would want to meet their needs as well as those already part of a worshipping community. Reflect on these ideas. Does the church exist solely for the benefit of non-members? What's your comfort level with change for the sake of meeting the needs of others? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, May 20**

Read Matthew 28:16-20. As shared in the message, these final words of Jesus are known as The Great Commission. Read them carefully and consider what Jesus intended for his followers to do. What would be Jesus' intentions for his followers today? Consider your talents and gifts, your desires for the church and the surrounding community. How can you faithfully respond to