

Introduction:

- We have spent considerable time on the Holy Spirit this year in the preaching. The danger of where we have been is that people can get to caught up in the 'goose bumps' the Holy Spirit can give. Or we can get to so caught up in the presence of worship that that is all we long for. Or we can stay so focused on becoming holy that we forget the mission. All of these things I have mentioned are great! But we have to ask ourselves, "What is on Jesus heart?"
- This morning I want to talk about one aspect of the nature of the Apostolic Church
 - Apostolic is not a denominational name. Though that exists, that is not what I am talking about.
 - Apostolic is not such a big word that we cannot understand it. In fact we must understand it.
 - To me, apostolic is a fierce word. It has to do with expanding the Kingdom of God at all costs! It is all about bringing the Kingdom right where we live. On earth as it is in heaven.
- I was thinking about the vision I had when we were in 5005 N Wickham Road across from what you will know as Home Depot. I was praying over the church on day and I received this picture of a space station that looked like an old wagon wheel. I heard God say "this will place will be a hub of activity." I saw people coming in and going out. Coming in to be saved, healed, delivered, equipped and restored. Then they were sent out. It was a hospital, a school, a training center, an equipping center that prepared people from all walks of life, to be good father's, mother's, christian, ministers, business people etc. It was a hub of activity full of movement!
- This morning I want to talk about the nature of the mission and what it means to be sent.

I. The Nature of The Mission

- A. Go - MT 28:18 - when ever you go, where ever you go, how ever you go...MAKE disciples.
 1. The word for 'go' means; to set in motion (IE. Dismissing children to classes), to go or to travel. You can't 'go' and 'stay put' at the same time. When Jesus said 'go' he was saying "be active." Not just busy. Get people saved and teach them how to obey. For the last six weeks that is what I have been teaching you about the Holy Spirit. Walk with Him and you will obey.
 - a) "The message of the OT is that one should go on God's way, not as a way that leads to God, but as a mode of life that one should live as a member of the covenant people." ... "It may also be used in the sense of carrying out a mission." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 916). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
 - b) That is why apathy, and complacency, are enemies of the mission. They hinder kingdom activity.
 2. The mission is not static. It can't be fulfilled just staying in one place.
 3. The nature of the mission is movement. There must be movement...from point A to point B.
 4. Not only are we to go but we have been delegated authority to go.
 - a) Exousia - the right and power to do. It is delegated authority backed up with power.
 - b) Mt 28:18 Jesus said, All authority has been given to me both in the heavenly and earthly realm.
- B. Be active, Make Disciples
 1. A disciples a person who has put their faith in Jesus, Governs their life by Jesus teaching, and passionately pursues Jesus mandate: Make Disciples.
 - a) The verb in verse 19 is 'make' it is a verb, aorist, active, imperative. Imperative means it is a command. Jesus said it, so it is non-negotiable!
 - b) So our movement in this life has to be towards making disciples.
 - c) The mission is the same for us all.

2. This is our mission: go and make disciples. Make followers of Christ. Love is the greatest tool in our arsenal.

C. Commission:

1. To give someone official authority to do a piece of work. Cambridge dictionary
2. Webster's 1828 - The thing committed, entrusted or delivered; a charge or mandate.
3. We have been commanded to make disciples. That is all our commission or mandate!
 - a) The more disciples we make the more the Kingdom Expands.
 - b) The more we build stronger disciples the more the Kingdom expands.
 - c) We are to baptize and teach new disciples how to walk in the ways of God. IE. It is what I have had the honor of doing with Kevin.

II. The Nature of Being Sent

- A. Before Jesus commissions the disciples in Mt 28:18-19 He took them out on a 'trial run.'
1. Mt 10:1 and Luke 9:1 Jesus sends the twelve out to heal the sick and preach the Kingdom.
 2. Mt 10:1-ff exhorts them to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils and preach the Kingdom of heaven
 - a) He called them to himself
 - b) He gave them authority
 - c) He gave them direction: heal, cast out devils, raise dead and tell people how close the Kingdom is to them.
 - d) He sent them out! Mt 10:5, Luke 9:1
 - (1) apostello - from which we get the word apostles. So these 12 end up with the title, Apostles, all because people realized they were sent.
 - (2) Apostello - means to send. "It thus carries the further thought of authorization, e.g., in the case of official envoys, but also divinely sent teachers.
 - (3) Apostello denotes the sending of a special messenger with emphasis on the sender so that the messenger is a kind of ambassador. The message and the one sent are of interest only as they embody the sender." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). NTD (pp. 67-68). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. This is why we need Holy Spirit! This is why we can all say the we are 'apostolic' not apostles but apostolic because we too are sent.
- B. In Luke 10:1 Jesus does something else to keep us from getting confused. He sends out 72. Just so we would not think that the 12 were something special, he calls 72 followers to himself and does the same thing.
1. *"The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit."* (Luke 10:1, NLT)
 2. Again, the 72 are sent. Same word, apostello- they were given authority and sent to do the same that the
 3. This is one key aspect of the nature of the apostolic church: **The apostolic church realizes that it has been given authority by Jesus and it is SENT to make disciples. Get people saved and turn them into followers of Christ!**
 4. This is what we are called to be church...Apostolic. The goal is to make disciples and this happens all because we understand we have been given authority by Jesus to do this.
 5. He where sent ones go we should expect a visitation!
- C. If you are sent you have to go! The commission is that we go because we have been sent. All of us have to be moving towards the goal of making disciples.
1. This is why there is a clarion call of heaven to right living.

2. This is why we need the Holy Spirit. We do not want people to just have a doctrine of beliefs we want them to have an experience with God!

III. The Church With An Apostolic Nature Acts 13:1-ff

A. The Church in Antioch Syria

1. Church - Gr. *Ecclesia*. Means 'called out' ones. *Ecclesia* comes from the Gr. *kaleo* - to call.
2. When one becomes a follower of Christ they are 'called out' of the world and into the Kingdom of God. They become Christians...Christ followers. *"When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.)"* (Acts 11:26, NLT)
3. You are not a Christ follower because you go to church. You are a Christian because you put your faith in Jesus and govern your life by His teachings, and are passionate about making more disciples.
4. Notice: ecclesia called out ones. They have been called out! Just like the 12. Just like the 72.

B. Now there were a group of prophets and teachers in Antioch

1. and they were fasting and praying and the Holy Spirit said to this group, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul to the work I have called them to." These men then laid hands on them and **SENT** them vs. 3
2. vs. 4 *"So Barnabas and Saul **were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus."*** (Acts 13:4, NLT)
3. What was their mission?
 - a) Make Disciples!
 - b) Preaches vs 5
 - c) Goes for people of influence. Governor vs. 12
 - d) Next town - preaches more
 - (1) Salvations history - vs 17-25. Out OT.
 - (2) We have the message vs 26 the message of salvation!
 - (3) vs. 30 God raised Jesus from the dead!
 - (4) vs 32 And we are here to bring you this good news!

Conclusion:

We are called to be an apostolic hub in this region!

It simple means we understand we have been given authority and power (Holy Spirit)

And our job is to make disciples.