

## **"Sending the Found" / May 6, 2018**

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**Two weeks we started a series that will span over 6 weeks, with Mother's Day being in the middle of it covering our new Mission Statement.**

**WDLT, Rtl, StF, DoG, and CtW...**

**This week we are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> banner – "By Sending the Found"!**

**Jeff Foxworthy recently said the following, "We are all damaged. The thing that just thrills God's heart is to see broken things restored!"**

**There has never ever been a more polarizing love story in all the history of the world than that of the Gospel of Grace and Truth – the Gospel of Jesus Christ! That a man would come and live His life for the ransom of sin of everyone that has ever lived on the planet. That a man, who was God, would humble Himself and come to this earth to die for us all. To some it is preposterous. To some it is foolishness. To some it is good or bad story. To some it is nonsensical. But the few call it the "Greatest Story Ever Told"! The Gospel!**

**This morning, I want you to step outside of yourself this morning. I want you take a long look at the questions of Sending!**

**Let's pray!**

**Did you know this morning that the foundation of our faith is not a clever collection of stories that are found in this book!**

**The foundation of our faith is an event that men and women saw – the death, the burial, and the resurrection of a Jewish Carpenter – the reason of my hope – that God raised Jesus from the dead! And as Peter said **Acts 1:21 & 22**...**

**<sup>21</sup> "So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus— <sup>22</sup> from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus' resurrection."**

**This is the whole foundational cornerstone of why we all believe in this Greatest Story ever told!**

**This is the very reason that we serve in our church.**

**This is the very reason we raise our children to love Jesus.**

**This is the very reason we give of our time, our money, our resources, and our heart and soul.**

**This is the very reason we live our life for Him!**

**Title Slide Church this morning I want to give you thought, that perhaps sounds as if I am mixing my metaphors. This thought may seem to be a stand-alone thought that belongs in a separate sermon. This thought is perplexing and is very much a reality to a lot of us in the room.**

"If the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the reason that we do so much of what we do in our life, why are so many of the next generation (**our kids and grandkids and great grandkids**) walking – not falling – away from the belief in Jesus Christ."

They are not falling, as if somehow, they mysteriously vanished from the radar screen of the Holy Spirit – Cornerstone - they are walking away because they have not seen with their own eyes the life transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

They have seen a hypocritical view of this Gospel, the way we walk it out and the way it happened is 180° from the way Jesus lived and how He instructed us to live!

Please Cornerstone, go back and read the first 4 chapters of Acts. Peter looked at the very ones that were called God's Children – the Jewish Nation – and called them out as the ones... **Acts 3:15**, "15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this."

**"PD, why are you saying this in a message entitled 'Sending the Found'?"**

Here's why... People that want to be sent, do so because they have seen with their eyes the lifechanging power of that resurrection and they want the world to know of this man name Jesus!

**They want to live counter culture to what our world is believing and living.** Cornerstone, this is magnified by the ease of the internet and social media. Internet and Social Media is not the enemy, it the enemy of our soul that is crafty and wiley, just as Jesus said he would be!

So, Cornerstone, we start with this question – "**How have you witnessed the Life Changing power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?"**

**Isaiah first service with the Handheld.**

**Grab a volunteer for 2<sup>nd</sup> Service.**

So, you see, this is why people want to be sent! There are countless numbers of people that want to go and tell this world about Jesus!

**It is not a book or the Bible, the First Century Church didn't have a Bible!**

**It is not a church or program or Cornerstone, the title Christian was not used for some time after the resurrection of Christ.**

**It is not a doctrine or a religious though – it is Jesus who is the Son of God – who is alive and still moving today, through the Power of the Holy Spirit!**

Well, **Sending the Found**...Let's answer some questions... **Matt. 28:16 – 20**...

16-17 Meanwhile, **WHO** the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about *worship*, about risking themselves totally.

18-20 Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: **WHAT** "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: **WHERE** Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. **HOW** I'll be with you as you do this, **WHEN** day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

**Sending the Found! Who? – Keep in mind that the list of people that the Apostle Paul is about to list, were all lost at one point in their lives... Romans 16 (NLT) - Paul Greet His Friends**

<sup>1</sup> I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. <sup>2</sup> Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

<sup>3</sup> Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches.

<sup>5</sup> Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Give my greetings to Mary, who has worked so hard for your benefit.

<sup>7</sup> Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did.

<sup>8</sup> Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

<sup>10</sup> Greet Apelles, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of Aristobulus.

<sup>11</sup> Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of Narcissus.

<sup>12</sup> Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord's workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me.

<sup>14</sup> Give my greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them.

<sup>15</sup> Give my greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and to Olympas and all the believers who meet with them. <sup>16</sup> Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.

**Paul's Final Instructions**

<sup>17</sup> And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. <sup>18</sup> Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. <sup>19</sup> But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. <sup>20</sup> The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

<sup>21</sup> Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.

<sup>22</sup> I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

<sup>23</sup> Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.

<sup>25</sup> Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. <sup>26</sup> But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. <sup>27</sup> All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

### **Sending the Found! What? Romans 10:14-17 (MSG)**

<sup>14-17</sup> But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them unless someone is sent to do it? That's why Scripture exclaims, A sight to take your breath away! Grand processions of people telling all the good things of God! But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: "Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. **WHAT** But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to.

- 1) **You walk through the stuff!**
- 2) **You are inspired through the stuff!**
- 3) **You are called through the stuff!**
- 4) **You are sent through over stuff!**
- 5) **You go through your stuff!**
- 6) **You go to save others through their stuff!**

### **Sending the Found! Where? Mark 13:5 – 13,**

<sup>5-8</sup> Jesus began, "Watch out for doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, 'I'm the One.' They will deceive a lot of people. When you hear of wars and rumored wars, keep your head and don't panic. This is routine history, and no sign of the end. Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. But these things are nothing compared to what's coming.

<sup>9-10</sup> "And watch out! They're going to drag you into court. And then it will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You're placed there as sentinels to truth. **The Message has to be preached all across the world.**

**11** “When they bring you, betrayed, into court, don’t worry about what you’ll say. When the time comes, say what’s on your heart—the Holy Spirit will make his witness in and through you. **12-13** “It’s going to be brother killing brother, father killing child, children killing parents. There’s no telling who will hate you because of me. Stay with it—that’s what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won’t be sorry; you’ll be saved.”

### **Sending the Found! When? Acts 3:19 & 20,**

**19** **Now** repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. **20** Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah.”

### **Sending the Found! How? Luke 14 (MSG),**

**1-3** One time when Jesus went for a Sabbath meal with one of the top leaders of the Pharisees, all the guests had their eyes on him, watching his every move. Right before him there was a man hugely swollen in his joints. So Jesus asked the religion scholars and Pharisees present, “Is it permitted to heal on the Sabbath? Yes or no?” **4-6** They were silent. So he took the man, healed him, and sent him on his way. Then he said, “Is there anyone here who, if a child or animal fell down a well, wouldn’t rush to pull him out immediately, not asking whether or not it was the Sabbath?” They were stumped. There was nothing they could say to that.

#### **Invite the Misfits**

**7-9** He went on to tell a story to the guests around the table. Noticing how each had tried to elbow into the place of honor, he said, “When someone invites you to dinner, don’t take the place of honor. Somebody more important than you might have been invited by the host. Then he’ll come and call out in front of everybody, ‘You’re in the wrong place. The place of honor belongs to this man.’ Red-faced, you’ll have to make your way to the very last table, the only place left.

**10-11** “When you’re invited to dinner, go and sit at the last place. Then when the host comes he may very well say, ‘Friend, come up to the front.’ That will give the dinner guests something to talk about! What I’m saying is, If you walk around with your nose in the air, you’re going to end up flat on your face. But if you’re content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

**12-14** Then he turned to the host. “The next time you put on a dinner, don’t just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You’ll be—and experience—a blessing. They won’t be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!—at the resurrection of God’s people.”

#### **The Story of the Dinner Party**

**15** That triggered a response from one of the guests: “How fortunate the one who gets to eat dinner in God’s kingdom!”

**16-17 Jesus followed up. "Yes. For there was once a man who threw a great dinner party and invited many. When it was time for dinner, he sent out his servant to the invited guests, saying, 'Come on in; the food's on the table.'**

**18 "Then they all began to beg off, one after another making excuses. The first said, 'I bought a piece of property and need to look it over. Send my regrets.'**

**19 "Another said, 'I just bought five teams of oxen, and I really need to check them out. Send my regrets.'**

**20 "And yet another said, 'I just got married and need to get home to my wife.'**

**21 "The servant went back and told the master what had happened. He was outraged and told the servant, 'Quickly, get out into the city streets and alleys. Collect all who look like they need a square meal, all the misfits and homeless and wretched you can lay your hands on, and bring them here.'**

**22 "The servant reported back, 'Master, I did what you commanded—and there's still room.'**

**23-24 "The master said, 'Then go to the country roads. Whoever you find, drag them in. I want my house full! Let me tell you, not one of those originally invited is going to get so much as a bite at my dinner party.'"**

### **Figure the Cost**

**25-27 One day when large groups of people were walking along with him, Jesus turned and told them, "Anyone who comes to me but refuses to let go of father, mother, spouse, children, brothers, sisters—yes, even one's own self!—can't be my disciple. Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.**

**28-30 "Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn't first sit down and figure the cost so you'll know if you can complete it? If you only get the foundation laid and then run out of money, you're going to look pretty foolish. Everyone passing by will poke fun at you: 'He started something he couldn't finish.'**

**31-32 "Or can you imagine a king going into battle against another king without first deciding whether it is possible with his ten thousand troops to face the twenty thousand troops of the other? And if he decides he can't, won't he send an emissary and work out a truce?**

**33 "Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple. 34 "Salt is excellent. But if the salt goes flat, it's useless, good for nothing. "Are you listening to this? Really listening?"**

### **Sending the Found! WHY? 1 Tim. 2:3-7,**

**"God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying..."**

### **Title Slide**

If you are here this morning, and no one has talked to you about this man Jesus, or you have stepped away from Him. You are running this race of life alone and hopeless... Remember what Jeff Foxworthy recently said, **"We are all damaged. The thing that just thrills God's heart is to see broken things restored!"**

**Rom. 5:6-9**, <sup>6</sup> When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup> Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. <sup>9</sup> And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

### **Title Slide**

**Now is the time to say yes to Jesus! And stop running away!**

**Come join me down here at these altars... Salvation Altar Call...**

**Closing Video – Ryan Stevenson - "The Gospel"**