

September 29, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church

Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

Message Series: Church: A Disciple-Making Community

Week 7: Living on Mission

### Introduction:

1. We've been working together to see the church as what it is called to be: a disciple-making community.
  - a. That means that as a community of Christ-followers, we have one job – to glorify God by making disciples. According to Matthew 4:19 a disciple is someone that...
    - i. Has a relationship with Jesus through belief and repentance: "Follow Me"
    - ii. Is being transformed by Jesus: "And I will make you"
    - iii. And is living on mission with Jesus: "Fishers of men"
2. We were able to build on that last week by looking at something Jesus taught in Matthew 11:28-30 and taking into account the context and the audience He was speaking to helped us understand the text much better. Jesus was a Jewish Rabbi and He called 12 men to follow Him as disciples. And 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish discipleship was very simple.

### **Jewish Rabbi's had a "Yoke" that included their...**

1. **Way:** practices or behaviors their disciples would observe and live out
2. **Truth:** teaching or interpretation of the Law their disciples would hear and take on
  - a. **The Way of Jesus** – throughout all 4 gospels you will find Jesus doing only 3 things in addition to eating and sleeping.
    - i. **Living on Mission** – going into spaces to redeem unredeemed things – in His teaching, healing, ministering, feeding, bringing hope. But He would take time away from mission to spend time in biblical community.

ii. **Spending time in Biblical Community** – There was no conflict in the heart of Jesus to not heal everyone and teach everyone in order to spend time with those that were His true family. As important as this is, Jesus did take time away from mission and biblical community in order to draw near to, or spend time with the Father.

iii. **Drawing near to the Father**

**b. The Truth of Jesus**

- i. The Word of God
- ii. As His life and teaching
- iii. Fulfilled the Law & Prophets

- 3. Today we're going to start with the priority of Jesus to live on mission. As one pastor said, that we see Jesus go into spaces to redeem unredeemed things.
- 4. He saw brokenness and He healed it. He saw hopelessness and gave hope.
- 5. For us though, in our culture that values producers and consumers, we can think about or hear about living on mission and come at it from a very wrong angle by thinking we are the workers who have to produce for God.
- 6. My hope to help you see that your identity in Christ must drive your activity for Christ.

**Let's look at Ephesians 2:8-10**

- 7. First we'll talk about what are unredeemed things and where we find them and then...
- 8. Look specifically at the work of redemption and our role in it

- **Unredeemed Spaces – where darkness and sin are reigning**

- **In the Culture:** causes and issues that affect souls and lives. It's more than at a political level. It's the individual people being exploited, abused, neglected, or suffering. We have to care more about souls than causes.
  - a. Feeding the hungry, helping the addict
  - b. Helping victims of human trafficking
  - c. Pro-life issues – more than just posting on social media against abortion – taking in the single mom, adoption, foster care, teens aging out of foster care. For us right now it's foster care and that's not just recognizing it's a need but the need becoming a face and a name. And it's day in and day out and there is NO guarantee of the outcome.
- **In Hearts and Minds:** we care about the each person because redemption happens one by one, not in masses. This is in your spouse, your children, your friends, people in your small group as well as the victims in the cultural crisis areas.
- **In Your Own Heart:** there are unredeemed things in our own hearts. We'll deal with this much more deeply in two weeks, but we cannot neglect the dark areas of our own heart. These are the areas where either we know the Word says this and we're doing that, or just areas we know need healing and hope and we keep inviting Jesus to bring light there and work to help us walk in the freedom that His resurrection brings.

- **The Work of Redemption**

- **Is God's Work –**
  - He is always at work around you and in you, but it's His work.
  - You and I cannot redeem anything. We cannot change people's hearts.

- That's a supernatural work, but you're welcomed and invited to be with God as He does it – Our text says that HE has prepared good work for you!
- So live in deep dependence upon Him

– **That You Are Invited Into** –

- Psalm 115:3 tell us “Our God is in the heavens, he does all that he pleases.” There is nothing that God cannot do or overcome on the way to redeeming sinful people.
- If you see a dark space and God calls you to be light into that space, know that He is already there working and inviting you to get involved – that's a GOOD work that He has prepared for you.

– **So, Show Up and Participate** –

- Everyday. Show up and get involved in the redemptive work that your Father is doing.
- Wake up and ask God to give you eyes to see where He is at work and courage to participate with Him in it.
- And how you see and understand your identity in Christ is critical. If a worker, then your production is all that matters.
- If a servant, then your obedience is all that matters. If a beloved son or daughter, then the enjoyment of your Father matters most.
- Yes, there is work to do, and there is obedience to walk in, but those are not your identity but rather flow out of your identity. Your Father is going to get the work done and He's invited you to join Him.

**Waffle making illustration** – Pastor Renaut – Mosaic Church, Orlando, FL

## Closing

1. Do you take time to notice where God is at work around you and in you?
  - a. What redemptive work are you doing with your Father right now?
    - i. In the culture?
    - ii. In the hearts and lives of others?
    - iii. In your own heart?
  - b. If nothing comes to mind, ask God to help you see and participate?
  - c. If you need to take hold of your true identity in Christ as a beloved son or daughter, take time and let that sink in and thank God for saving you and adopting you and inviting you to join Him on mission?

Let's pray and then you stand and sing and reflect on what God has said to you.