

**The Church on the Move**  
**Something Worth Saying**  
**Matthew 9:35-10:15; Matthew 28:16-20**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** If we don't enter life as a missionary we will emerge from it as a mission field. Consider three reasons for being missional

**I) Because we have something to say that is universally relevant.**

**A) What is our message?**

1) Some bad answers

- Fire insurance
- "Moralistic therapeutic deism" (Christian Smith)

2) The right answer: *Matthew 28:18: All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus*

**B) Isn't this too much to claim?**

**C) Meaning**

**II) Because by being missional we love people**

*Matthew 9:36: When Jesus saw the crowds he had compassion on them*

**A) Jesus' kingdom is non-coercive**

**B) We offer 'peace' (Shalom)**

*Matthew 10:13: If the house is worthy, let your shalom be upon it*

**III) Because it is to be engaged in the worthiest of tasks**

*Matthew 10:11ff: ...find out who is worthy and stay there*

**A) Gospel mooching?**

Response:

- The 12 were not self-appointed
- What our 'gospel mooching' critique reveals about our values

**B) Some applications**

- Hospitable listeners
- Giving proper value to missional endeavors

**Conclusion:** The most encouraging reason for being missional is that we can be.

*Mt 9:38: ...pray to the Lord...to send out laborers into his harvest.*

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) "If a young person does not enter college as a missionary he will leave college as a mission field." Do you agree? Why/why not? Can the saying be extended to include the whole of life (the workplace, the apartment building, friendships, books we read)? Why/why not?
- 2) State the gospel message in one sentence. Compare it to Matthew 28:18 ("All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Christ") and Matthew 10:7 ("The kingdom of God is at hand"). Christian Smith, after a careful study of young people raised in the church, says that the gospel they tend to believe in is "moralistic therapeutic deism" (translated, "Jesus will help you be good and happy as you do whatever it is that you want to do"). How does this version of the gospel differ from the version we find in Matthew 28:18 and Matthew 10:7?
- 3) What problems do people (perhaps you) have with the notion that Jesus has absolute and comprehensive authority?
- 4) According to Matthew 9:36 motivated Jesus to press forward day after day extending the kingdom by word and deed? Compare his motivation to yours.
- 5) The projected extent of Jesus' reign is no different from the projected extent of Islam. There are two differences: (i) Jesus' reign is non-coercive (no one is drafted into Jesus' army or forced to live in his city); (ii) Jesus' aim is to bring shalom to this world (peace at every level—personal, social, international, and with nature). How might you do a better job advocating for this kingdom at work/school and in your relationships with neighbors?
- 6) Read Matthew 10:11-15. Does the picture here bother you? If so, why? If Derek Jeter, Robert Redford, or President Obama asked you to put him up for a few weeks, what would you do? Why does this picture bother you less than the one Jesus suggests? What does it tell you about what you value?
- 7) Preachers are heralds of the king. One way we show them hospitality is by paying them an income so that they can focus on heralding. Another way is to receive their words into your minds and hearts as you would receive an honored guest into your home. What in practical terms would it look like for you to be fully hospitable to them as they preach?
- 8) Whose harvest is the gospel harvest according to Matthew 9:38? How does this affect your thinking about living a missional life?