

Matthew 28:18-19 New Living Translation

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, (or all peoples) baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

So far, we have covered The Method, The Mandate and this week we will end this series with THE MESSAGE.

Vs 20 **WE HAVE A DIVINE MESSAGE**

Jesus tells His followers to share a specific message: “...²⁰ **Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you ...**”

As we go and as we tell the world about Jesus, the message we are to share is very clear. We are to share the Gospel.

Did you know that unbelievers want to know why you are not inviting them to church? Facebook posts don't count! Why? **A post is not personal!** It is a passive invite! That is better than none at all, but the personal touch goes a long way. You always want to follow your post with the personal touch.

This is one of the top 7 things unbelievers want to know about Christians. What Non-Christians Really Think About Christians

By **Thom Rainer** July 20, 2022

1. Christians are against more things than they are for. “It just seems to me Christians are mad at the world and mad at each other. They are so **negative**, they seem unhappy. I have no desire to be like them and stay upset all the time.”

2. I would like to develop a friendship with a Christian.

“I'm really interested in what they believe and how they carry out their beliefs. I wish I could find a Christian who would be willing to spend some time with me.”

3. I would like to learn about the Bible from a Christian.

“The Bible really fascinates me, but I don’t want to go to a stuffy and legalistic church to learn about it. It would be nice if a Christian invited me to study the Bible in his home or at a place like Starbucks.”

4. I don’t see much difference in the way Christians live compared to others.

“I really can’t tell what a Christian believes because he doesn’t seem much different than other people I know. The only exception would be **Mormons**. They really seem to take their beliefs seriously.”

5. I wish I could learn to be a better husband/wife/dad/mom, etc., from a Christian.

“My wife is threatening to **divorce** me, and I think she means it this time. My neighbor is a Christian, and he seems to have it together. I am swallowing my pride and asking him to help me.”

6. Some Christians try to act like they have no problems.

“Harriett works in my department. She is one of those Christians who seems to have a mask on. I would respect her more if she didn’t put on such an act. I know better.”

7. I wish a Christian would **take me to his or her church.**

“I really would like to visit a church, but I’m not particularly comfortable going by myself. What is weird is that I am 32 years old, and I’ve never had a Christian invite me to church in my entire life.”

Do you see the pattern? Non-Christians want to interact with Christians. They want to see Christians’ actions match their beliefs. They want Christians to be real.

One study found only 5 percent of non-Christians are antagonistic toward Christians. It's time to stop believing the lies we have been told. Jesus said it clearly:

"The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" ([Luke 10:2](#), HCSB).

80% of the people who were asked to come....would!

We talked about our METHOD, our sphere of influence. You are a king or queen of your dominion regardless the size of it.

Our vision statement at Impact Church is, "Transforming lives to Impact their world." **People are more into transformation than information!!**

We must be relevant and relational rather than religious!

Carey Nieuwhoff wrote in an article this week, "Churches that love their methods more than the mission will die. It happened in the 50's, 70's and 90's and it's happening today. What was effective a decade ago isn't always effective today. Leaders who live in the past end up dying in the future."

Thanks to the internet, we are drowning in a sea of information. Good and Bad. With that said, fewer people are looking for more information about God; they are looking for an experience with God.

It is no longer good enough to know about God, they want to know him personally, individually and relationally.

People are hungry for a true community, deeper experiences and authentic transcendence.

Transcendence-existence or experience beyond the normal or physical level.

We are all about the transformation business!!! Our message must reflect this. **“This is what I was, this is what I am”** We want to be dispensers of that Heavenly favor and share the flavor of the Lord!

What is the flavor of the Lord? “O taste and see that the Lord is good. Psalm 34:8

We are committed to Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” NIV

In short- GLOBAL GLORY- A Glory bomb over Bridgewater.

Jesus is committed to this city being restored and redeemed with no restrictions.

We talked about how we are called to Impact our World.

Matthew 5:13 You are “The” Salt of the earth.

S. See as Jesus- You see and bring value to people

A. Accept as Jesus- Where they are

L. Love as Jesus- Unconditional

T. Touch as Jesus- Transformational

Be Glad when people ask you WHY?

SAM WILLIAMS “ Evangelism is helping people discover how God is already at work in their lives

IF YOU'RE NOT DEAD HE'S NOT DONE! We are all in full-time ministry

We have a love war, not a condemnation war. It is not us and them. We are not at war with our neighbors. We are at war with the spirit that controls them. The same spirit that once controlled us.

We are not crowned to be critical; we are crowned with the same compassion that called Jesus to this carnal world.

Your message may be judgement, but God's is mercy, forgiveness, restoration. The only prerequisite is receiving it.

Why and what are we crowned with?

Romans 5:21 New Living Translation

²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wherever sin has encroached on God's eternal plan, we have the authority to remove it!! You are authorized, deputized and commissioned with a mandate to move any obstacle both physical and spiritual that is contrary to the Great Commission.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

New Living Translation

But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light

One of my most favorite scriptures has to be John 3:17

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Jesus came to this world to make the Gospel a reality. He came to a cradle, died on a cross and left with a crown. He came to save us and to give us a message of salvation that we could share with lost souls.

Our message is not a message about our church or our denomination. It is not about our preacher or about our standards of dress and music. It is not about our style of worship. All of those are important, but none of them can save anyone.

Our message is a simple message. It is a message of hope to the hurting; of life to the dead; of peace to the tormented. Our message is called The Gospel and "***it is the power of God unto salvation, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.***" (Rom. 1:16) It is a message that every person in the world needs to hear. It is a message that is universal in its application. It is

a message that has the potential to change every life and every eternity that falls under its power.

John 1:11-12. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Our message is what the Apostle Paul echoed: “I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.” **1 Cor. 15:3-4.**

Sharing this Gospel message is as easy as telling lost people what Jesus did for you and what He can do for them.

Mark 5:20 So, the man started off to visit the Ten Towns^{[(DECAPOLIS)} of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them

That is, it! It is the most powerful message the world has ever heard, and it is a message that must be delivered to a lost world by the people of God. There is no other message that God will use to draw the sinner to Himself and there is no other message He will use to save lost souls!

There is no way we can introduce people to Jesus if we are not convinced that HE REIGNS in ours. Can we please start inviting people to Jesus before we hammer them with what is wrong with them?

Our Message is that Jesus Heals and Restores!!

Acts 1:8 New King James Version ⁸ **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be ^[a]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

We have not been called to go out witnessing as much as we called to be a witness.

1 Peter 3:15 NLT ...if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

Acts: 16:31 “ So they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household.

OUR MESSAGE IS SIMPLE: JESUS SAVES

1 Timothy 1:15 New Living Translation ¹⁵ **This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I (PAUL) am the worst of them all.**

TITUS 3: 4-6 When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.^[a] ⁶ He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior

JESUS WAS BORN ON A MISSION OF MERCY! TO SAVE

EPHESIANS 2:8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God

When is a gift not a gift? When it is forced on someone! A gift is a gift when it is received!!!

The Good news for all of mankind is that “WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS HE CAME AND DIED FOR US! HE didn't wait for us to get out stuff together first, clean up our act.

Just the Way You Are

(by Billy Joel)

Don't go changing, to try and please me
 You never let me down before
 Don't imagine you're too familiar
 And I don't see you anymore
 I wouldn't leave you in times of trouble
 We never could have come this far
 I took the good times, I'll take the bad times
 I'll take you just the way you are

I don't want clever conversation
I never want to work that hard
I just want someone that I can talk to
I want you just the way you are.

I need to know that you will always be
The same old someone that I knew
What will it take 'till you believe in me
The way that I believe in you.

I said I love you, and that's forever
And this I promise from the heart
I could not love you any better
I love you just the way you are.

God will never relax his grip of love on you! He will take you just the way you are!!!

Can we love people enough by taking a chance on being rejected?