



Sunday, October 22, 2017

Brooks Buser

Introduction to Matthew 28:16-20

When asked about how we will know when Christ is going to return, Bible scholar George Ladd referred to Matthew 24:14 when he responded, “I do not know. God alone knows the definition of terms. I cannot precisely define who ‘all the nations’ are. Only God knows the exact meaning of ‘evangelize’ ... But I do not need to know. I know only one thing: Christ has not yet returned; therefore, the task is not yet done. When it is done, Christ will come. Our responsibility is not to insist on defining the terms of our task; our responsibility is to complete it. So long as Christ does not return, our work is undone. Let us get busy and complete our mission.”

This is a powerful statement on the role of the local church in completing the task of global missions—of discipling all the ethnic groups in the world by teaching them to worship the One, True God through Jesus Christ our Lord. This weekend we have had the opportunity to listen to many great things that are going on around the world as we have interacted with missionaries serving in so many different countries in so many different parts of the world. As small groups, let us be about the work of evangelizing even those in our little corner of the world. Ultimately, all missions are local missions. It is just a matter of where the locale is. So long as the Lord has placed us in the greater Lansing area, let us get busy and complete our mission.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Key Points from Brooks' Message

- How do I know if God wants me to be a missionary? Get moving (toward becoming one) and see if God closes doors.
- 4 Goals for Working with Unreached People
 - o Learn the language and culture (become and insider)
 - o Teach them how to read and write in their own language
 - o Teach the talk about where you go when you die
 - o Translate that talk into their language
- Jesus came as an insider
 - o Lived among us
 - o Spoke our language (human language)
- Jesus' final words carry special meaning (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - o Not talking about faith, family, or church
 - o Handing out orders—talks about authority
 - If you're a Christian, you are under orders
 - Not about what you're into, gifted at, or passionate about, but about what He's called us to
 - God has something bigger than our small, provincial vision
- One day, the time for missions will end
 - o Missions exists to see people become worshipers of Jesus from every people group (primarily distinguished by language)
- We have the option as Christians to either go, send, or disobey
- We live radically because our job is not complete

Discuss

1. What did you think of Brooks' story about ministering to the Yembiyembi people? What stuck out to you most from either what he said or the video?
2. What is keeping you from becoming a missionary to an unreached people? (Note: There are good reasons not to go, but we need to make sure they are good reasons)
3. What does it look like to be a "sender"? What role do you play in that as an individual and as a member/regular attender of South Church?
4. Brooks talked about becoming an "insider" among the people you're trying to reach with the gospel. What would it look like for you to become an insider to the people in your life who need to hear the gospel?
5. Missions (especially the work of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting) is much more difficult for people who are not actively participating in evangelism and discipleship here. Who are some people in your life that you can be intentional about sharing Christ with? What do you think are the greatest obstacles between them coming to Christ? How can we pray for you as you seek to be intentional with them?

Go Deeper... IN PRAYER

1. Pray for the missionaries of South Church.
 - a. For their own relationships with the Lord
 - b. For the spiritual health of their families and fellow workers and team members
 - c. For patient endurance as they plod consistently in the work of the gospel
 - d. For boldness to speak the gospel confidently and clearly
 - e. For God to open the hearts of those who hear that they might be saved

2. Pray for us as a church
 - a. For our rejection of comfort as an obstacle to gospel proclamation
 - b. For our dependence upon the Holy Spirit in our own ministry here in Lansing
 - c. For continued commitment to supporting missionaries who serve over seas
 - d. For one another as we commit to sharing Christ with those around us
 - e. For our community, that they would see the light of the gospel in our interactions with them and with one another

3. Pray for people (by name) in your sphere of influence who do not know Jesus
 - a. For the Spirit to go ahead of you to cause them to be aware of their need of a Savior
 - b. For the Spirit to clarify the gospel in your own mind and heart as you prepare to share with them
 - c. For boldness and confidence as you or other Christians in their lives tell them about the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, and imminent return