

Sent by a Sending God

Sermon Title: “Sent by a Sending God”

Text: Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

To the saints of Foreman Memorial, what a sacred moment this is—when a local congregation lifts its eyes beyond its walls and remembers that the Lamb who was slain purchased men and women **“from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).**

Opening Prayer for World Missions Service

Heavenly Father, We come before You today in the name above every name—the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We gather not merely as a local church, but as a redeemed people belonging to a global kingdom. Your Word declares: **“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1)**

So today, Lord, we acknowledge that the nations are Yours. The continents are Yours. The languages are Yours. The cultures are Yours. The kings and rulers are Yours. Every soul that breathes draws life from Your sustaining hand. Father, we worship You as the sovereign God of history. You told Abraham: **“In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)** And through Christ, that promise has reached us. We are living proof that the gospel crosses borders, oceans, and generations. Lord Jesus, You commanded Your disciples: **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” (Matthew 28:19)**

Today we confess that the Great Commission is not optional—it is our assignment. It is not a program of the church; it is the very heartbeat of the church. Forgive us when we grow comfortable, inward, or distracted. Renew in us a holy burden for the lost. Your Word tells us: **“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)**

So, we pray with urgency. Father, we lift before You the unreached peoples of the earth—those who have never heard the name of Jesus, those who bow to idols of wood and stone, those enslaved to false religions, those wounded by secular emptiness, those oppressed by darkness and fear.

Shine the light of Christ into every place where spiritual blindness reigns. We pray for missionaries across the globe:

- Those translating Scripture into new languages
- Those planting churches in hostile environments
- Those serving quietly in medical clinics, schools, and villages
- Those enduring loneliness, persecution, and sacrifice

Strengthen them, Lord. As Your Word says: **“How shall they preach unless they are sent?” (Romans 10:15).** Make us a sending church. Make us a supporting church. Make us a praying church. Make us a giving church. Make us a going church. Father, protect our missionaries from discouragement. Guard their marriages. Shield their children. Provide their daily bread. Give them boldness, as You gave the early church: **“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)**

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Lord, we also confess that missions begins in our own hearts. Before we can reach the nations, You must search us. Remove prejudice. Remove fear. Remove apathy. Break our hearts for what breaks Yours. You have declared: **“Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance.” (Psalm 2:8)**

So today we ask. Give Christ the nations. Give Him the villages. Give Him the cities. Give Him the universities. Give Him the persecuted lands. Give Him the forgotten islands. Let there be a great harvest in our generation. Father, we also pray that You would raise up from among us men and women who will answer Your call. Stir the hearts of young people. Stir the hearts of retirees. Stir the hearts of families. May someone in this very service say, **“Here am I! Send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)**

And Lord, as we worship today, align our hearts with heaven. For one day we will stand before Your throne and see fulfilled what John saw: **“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...” (Revelation 7:9)**

Let this service be a foretaste of that day. May every hymn sung, every prayer offered, every offering given, and every word preached advance the glory of Christ among the nations. We ask all of this not for our name, not for our church’s recognition, but for the supremacy of Jesus Christ, who alone is worthy of all worship. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Theological Introduction: The Mission of the Triune God

Missions do not begin in **Matthew 28**. It begins in the heart of God. From **Genesis** to **Revelation**, Scripture reveals a *sending God*.

The Father sends the Son (John 3:16–17 NKJV).

John 3:16-17 NKJV

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The Father and the Son send the Spirit (John 14:26 NKJV).

John 14:26 NKJV

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

And the Triune God sends the Church (John 20:21 NKJV).

John 20:21 NKJV

²¹ So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

Missions is not an optional program of the church—it is the overflow of the character of God. **Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)**

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³ **“And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”**

God’s covenant with Abraham was global from the beginning.

Psalm 67:2 (NKJV)

² **“That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.”**

The Old Testament anticipates what the New Testament commands.

Revelation 7:9 NKJV

⁹ **After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.**

Missions begins in eternity past and ends in eternity future. The church simply steps into the ongoing redemptive purpose of God. Missions is not man’s idea. It is God’s decree.

Modern-Day Introduction: A World in Spiritual Crisis

We live in a hyper-connected world. We can video call across continents in seconds. News travels instantly. Goods move globally. Yet spiritually, millions remain unreached. Entire people groups have little or no access to the gospel. In our own cities, neighbors live and die without biblical truth. Moral confusion spreads faster than biblical clarity.

The question is not whether the world is reachable. The question is whether the church is obedient. The church is not called to comfort—it is called to commission.

Primary Text: The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ **And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

²⁰ **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.**

I. The Authority Behind Missions (v. 18)

“All authority has been given to Me...”

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ **And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

Missions is grounded in Christ’s sovereign authority. He possesses *universal authority*. He commands the church to go. We are not ambassadors of opinion—we are ambassadors of the King.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ...”

2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

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²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.
An ambassador does not negotiate the message. He delivers it.

II. The Assignment of Missions (v. 19–20a)

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

The main verb is not “go.” It is “make disciples.” Missions is not merely travel. It is transformation. Three participles define disciple-making: 1) **Going** – intentional movement, 2) **Baptizing** – identification with Christ, and 3) **Teaching** – obedience to Christ's commands.

Missions is not decisionism. It is discipleship.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Notice the geographic expansion: Jerusalem (**local**), Judea (**regional**), Samaria (**cross-cultural**), and Ends of the earth (**global**). A church faithful locally but indifferent globally is incomplete in obedience.

III. The Assurance of Missions (v. 20b)

“Lo, I am with you always...”

Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

The Great Commission ends with a great promise. We do not go alone. His presence empowers, His Spirit convicts, and His Word accomplishes its purpose.

Isaiah 55:11 NKJV

¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Missions does not ultimately depend on human ingenuity. It rests on divine faithfulness.

Three Modern-Day Illustrations

1. The Lighthouse in a Storm

A lighthouse does not chase ships—it stands faithful, shining in darkness.

The church is that lighthouse. In a world of moral storms and spiritual confusion, missions is the beam of gospel light. If the light goes out, ships crash. If the church stops proclaiming Christ, souls perish without warning.

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2. The Fire That Spreads

When a single spark lands in dry timber, it spreads. The early church began with 120 in an upper room (**Acts 1**). Within decades, the gospel reached the Roman Empire. Missions is not about numbers—it is about ignition. A small church that burns with gospel conviction can impact nations.

3. The Rescue Mission

Imagine firefighters standing outside a burning building discussing architecture while people scream inside. The world is spiritually perishing.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ **“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**

Missions is rescue. It is not cultural imperialism. It is eternal compassion.

Practical Applications

1. Pray intentionally for the nations

Colossians 4:3 NKJV

³ **Meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains.**

2. Give sacrificially

Philippians 4:15-16 NKJV

¹⁵ **Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.**

¹⁶ **For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.**

3. Go obediently

– Whether across the street or across the ocean.

4. Disciple faithfully

– Teach all that Christ commanded.

Closing Exhortation

The church does not exist for itself. It exists for: The glory of God, The salvation of sinners, and The gathering of worshipers from every tribe and tongue. Missions is not a department of the church. It is the heartbeat of the church. May we be found faithful when the Lamb receives the reward of His suffering.

Closing Scripture

Romans 10:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ **How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?**

¹⁵ **And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”**

May our feet be beautiful because they are obedient.

Heavenly Father,

We bow before You as the sovereign Lord of heaven and earth. All authority belongs to Christ, and all glory belongs to You. We thank You that before we ever thought about missions, You were already pursuing the nations. Before we ever spoke Your name, You had written redemption into history through the cross of Your Son.

Father, forgive us for the times we have been comfortable while the world is lost. Forgive us when we have loved convenience more than commission. Stir our hearts again with the compassion of Christ. Lord Jesus, You are worthy of worship from every tribe, tongue, and nation. You shed Your blood not for one people only, but for all who would believe. We ask that You would receive the reward of Your suffering. Raise up laborers from among us.

Send preachers, teachers, evangelists, and faithful witnesses. Let none of us stand idle while eternity hangs in the balance. Holy Spirit, empower Your church. Give us boldness without arrogance, compassion without compromise, and conviction without fear. Open doors for the Word. Prepare hearts in places we may never see. Strengthen missionaries serving in difficult soil. Protect them. Encourage them. Provide for them. Let them sense Your presence in lonely places.

Father, burden us to pray more faithfully. Move us to give more sacrificially. Lead us to go more obediently. Whether across the street or across the sea, make us faithful ambassadors of Christ. Let our church burn with gospel clarity. Let our homes be training grounds for disciples. Let our conversations carry eternal weight. And when we gather in heaven before Your throne, may we rejoice alongside redeemed souls from every nation, knowing that by Your grace we were part of Your great redemptive plan.

We trust You. We surrender to You. We send in obedience to You. And we ask it all in the mighty and matchless name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.
Amen.