

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Mission of the Church

Sunday, October 4, 2020 · Scripture: **Luke 24:44–49** · Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

OVERVIEW

Jesus is leaving his disciples with commands at the end of his earthly ministry and instructing them on the mission. His disciples were to go to all nations and proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Since they were witnesses to his life, ministry, death, and resurrection, they are now called to be witnesses of those things to the world. This wasn't just an inspirational moment, but a strategy. They were to stay in Jerusalem until the power of the Holy Spirit would come, and then go and preach Jesus to all and make disciples of all nations. But in our fractured world, the mission is getting easier to forget. And **a church that forgets its mission forfeits its victory.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Genesis 12:3; Psalm 22:27; Mark 16:15; Matthew 28; Colossians 1:28-29;

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your hope for the world? What is your hope for America? What's the real hope for change? *[that Jesus Christ will be believed upon, because when Christ is received, hearts are changed, and people with changed hearts relate to each other differently]*
2. Who is called to obey **The Great Commandment**? *[everyone universally is called to love God]* Who is called to obey **The Great Commission**? *[exclusively the Church]*
3. How does Pastor Joe describe the mission of the church? *["to make disciples as disciples because we all play a role"]* What *isn't* the mission of the church? *[everything else—not renew the city, the holocaust of abortion, overcoming racism, etc.]* How does defining what is *not* our mission change your thinking about our mission together?
4. Pastor Joe said we go into the world with an agenda. What is the agenda? (The agenda is the mission of the church—to make disciples) Does “an agenda” sound dangerous or wrong to you? Why or why not? How do we do this without making people into mere projects? How do we do this without becoming arrogant or condescending?
5. Read Colossians 1:28–29. According to this passage, what is the goal? *[Be mature in Christ. Be a disciple.]* How can you more faithfully pursue maturity yourself as well as help develop maturity in others? Is there anything you should add to your schedule? Is there anything you should take away?

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6. Local churches all eventually die. According to Pastor Joe, what is the main reason they do? [*losing focus on the mission*] How do we keep the main thing as the main thing? How do we keep focused on the mission?