



Central Telford Parish

Week Beginning 24th June 2018

“World Mission ... Why?”

- **Introduction**

We live in a world of instant communication - where we can talk to people anywhere in the world from our homes, complete with pictures. News travels fast and we learn about events as soon as they occur via 24 hour news channels. As the speed of communication increases, so does the requirement for fast decisions - and that presents a challenge for the spread of a Gospel that requires reflection and a carefully considered response to God. The urgency of knowing the news is rarely matched with an urgency to share the Gospel, though - we talk about the Gospel remaining the same but requiring new ways of delivery, but there is often little sense of urgency about the task - why not?

- **Welcome**

Which is the best book or film you have seen recently and why?

- **Worship**

Read Luke 4:16-21. Go around the group offering things which are mentioned in this passage or things which you have experienced as benefits of the Salvation which Jesus has brought. Spend some time thanking God for these things.

- **Word**

The Task

- ❖ Read Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:6-8
- With whose authority does Jesus send the disciples out?
- What difference does having that authority make to the task?
- What is the strategy for the task - geographically? (Acts 1:8)
- What is the strategy for those who are reached? (Matthew 28:19/20)
- How are the disciples to be equipped for the task?
- Are they on their own? What does that mean in reality?

It's good to note that the disciples ask a question concerning politics and get an answer concerning the Kingdom of God. It is important that we ask the right questions!

Where is The Task?

- Is there a difference between overseas mission and mission in Telford?
- If so, what is the difference? Should there be a difference?
- What will happen if we ignore the task in Telford?
- What will happen if we ignore the task across the world?

What's Was Jesus' Motivation?

- ❖ Read Matthew 9:35-38. Jesus tells the disciples to "go" in Matthew 28:19, once he has modelled "going" in Matthew 9:35 Jesus is motivated by Compassion.

- Why does Jesus say that the workers are few?
- Is that the case today? If so, what is the problem?

Being Obedient to the Command

- ❖ Read Romans 10:11-15
- What does God call you and I to be above all else?
- When it comes to fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission on Matthew 28:1-20, why do we find it so hard?
- Is it harder for us than for the first disciples? Why?
- In Gethsemane, Jesus asks to be relieved of his task but is still obedient to it - what can we learn from that?
- Jesus was motivated by his willingness to be obedient to his father's command - and so should we. Why is this a problem for us?

So Should be Our Motivation?

- Compassion that people will die without knowing Jesus?
- The possibility that people will go to hell unless somebody (maybe even us) tells them?
- The excitement at sharing something wonderful in our lives.
- Being obedient to what God asks us to do.
- All of the above?

• Works

It is far too easy for the church to become so obsessed with our problems and our issues that we forget that the last thing that Jesus said was "Go ...". For some it is literally "go" and it could mean anywhere in the world. For most of us, though, it is about going into our local community and sharing what we have found (one thirsty person showing another thirsty person where the water is).

So for you – as an individual, as a group, as part of a church community

- Is "world mission" just too big for you to think about?
- Is "world mission" something you know you should think about but need ideas?
- Is "world mission" about supporting the people who are "out there"?
- Is "world mission" in your world addressing the problems of the people where you live?
- Is "world mission" about stopping, thinking and asking God to show you what you should do?

There is no simple answer and the answer for you will be very different to the answer for someone else - the question is about being honest and listening to God prompt you as to how you should respond. Talk and pray as to what that should be.

• A thought to finish with

Romans 10:14 and 15 are hard verses because they do not allow us to retain the idea that it is "someone else's job". The task which Jesus gave to his disciples in their generation is that which he gives to us in our generation - the difficulties and the hurdles are the same and so are the excuses and the reasons we give for not doing it. It has been said that the church is always "one generation away from extinction". How can we make sure that the world-wide church is here for the next generation.