

11.04.20 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: Sent Ones

Scripture Reading: [Acts 1:8](#); [Mark 5:1-20](#)

Reflection: Rev. Amy Schenkel

As a general rule, I never pay more than \$15 for sunglasses because I lose them so often! Sometimes I find the previous-season's sunglasses under the seat of my car or in the pocket of my coat. But, sometimes, I lose my sunglasses only to realize they are on top of my head. What I had been looking for was with me the whole time.

When Jesus sends his disciples out to "Judea" as part of the Great Commission, he is encouraging them to take note of the mission field that most often overlooked- the mission field that is with them the whole time. Jesus sends them into their own neighborhoods, into places where their neighbors share in similar lifestyles, have similar experiences, and speak their language.

In Mark 5:18-20, Jesus had just healed a man of demons that had plagued him for some time. He had been living in a cemetery among the tombs and graves, experiencing such inner turmoil that he spent his days and nights screaming and cutting himself, but then one encounter with Jesus changed everything. Jesus cast out his demons, and the man experienced the peace, grace, and cleansing of God. This man's entire life was transformed by Jesus.

Given such a miraculous transformation, the man naturally wanted to join Jesus and the disciples on the next leg of their journey. But, instead, Jesus tells him "Go home to your own people. Tell them your own story- what the Master did and how he had mercy on you." (MSG) Jesus sends him back to his own people, the people who could see with their very eyes the transformation that had taken place in this man's life. He became the talk of the town. His mission field was with him the whole time.

Being sent by Jesus starts with our own story of transformation. Through God's grace and love, God removes the burden of shame from us and restores us into joy. God sees our loneliness from rejection and reminds us of God's unconditional love for us. God takes our heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh.

It is out of this story of transformation that we desire to follow Jesus, and the mission God is calling us into is right with us the whole time.

Join in the mission of God today by venturing into your own neighborhood. Be present among your neighbors, keeping your eyes open for opportunities to see where God is at work. Grab a lawn chair (and your sunglasses, if you can find them), and be present among your neighbors, keeping your eyes open for opportunities to see where God is at work, redeeming and restoring hearts and lives.

Prayer:

God of mission, You have been at work in my heart and life, transforming me to be more like Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Now help me to see where you are at work in the neighborhood where I live, the building where I work, the school I attend, the grocery store where I shop. Give me opportunities to love my neighbors, and to be part of your mission that has been present with me the whole time. In Jesus name, Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Leave your front door and walk 100 steps into your neighborhood. Stop and look around you. How do you think God is at work in this place? How might the Spirit be prompting you to be sent to this place?

Song for today:

[Send Me Out](#) (Fee)

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