

WEEKLY REFLECTION

This past Sunday, we took a break from our usual sermon series on 1 Thessalonians to switch focus towards mission. The reminder for us is that mission is not something we necessarily *do*. Rather, it is worship and lifestyle. We *must* scatter to fulfill Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations—not just locally, but internationally and globally as well. We understand that each one of us has a calling to share the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with those around us. But as we scatter abroad, we need humility. We need a recognition and understanding of how we cannot fix problems encountered by those on the front lines.

What we *can* do is encourage and empower them while we're there, and we can bring that spirit of encouragement and empowerment back where we are! The same Spirit of God that empowered builders and artisans from the Old Testament to build the tabernacle and the temple of Solomon dwells within us. The same Spirit of God that directed the acts of the apostles in Acts, that allowed them to endure extreme persecution and suffering lives in us. Before we go out to scatter—before we proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, and set the oppressed free (Lk. 4:18-19)—we must make space for the Holy Spirit to be in us. Mission will then come naturally, as an outward expression of God's Spirit within us.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

What comes to mind when you think about the term “mission”? How would you define “doing mission”? What does it look like for you, or people around you to be doing mission—whether locally or someplace abroad?

QUESTION TWO:

The first step to becoming a missional body of Christ is to look for serving opportunities right where you are. We will have a chance to discuss what it means to be scattering locally in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, here are some questions to get you thinking on what it means for Jesus to have purchased with His blood people from every tribe, language, and nation. (Rev. 5:9)

- How have you been living missionally? Does your activism extend beyond a screen?
- How are you encouraging and empowering those on the front lines, whether locally or those abroad?
- Do you care about the unreached? Does your prayer and faith life reflect that care?
- Lastly: do you have God’s heart for the nations? What in your life reflects that heart?

QUESTION THREE:

As you and your group think about what it means to be living missionally, we would love for you to be taking that first step towards mission as a group.

Whether it’s individual, as members of the group may already be doing mission or have considered a call towards missions; or communal, as we encourage you to scatter and serve a people / age group—take some time now to engage in prayer, and leave space for God to respond. Share with your leaders any thoughts / insights you might have, and see where God takes you!