

I. Introduction

- A. Living out our "sent-ness" does not always mean we are physically going somewhere.
 - 1. We serve a God Who may ask us to get up and go somewhere, He may ask us to stay put and pray for somewhere, and He may even send someone to us where we are.
 - 2. Again, the key to your faithfulness is obedience to the Spirit's leading under the authority of Scripture.
- B. God has called us to Himself and His mission in such a compelling way that, regardless of station or season, living out our sent-ness is undeniable.

II. Accessibility of sent-ness

A. Prayer

- 1. Prayer is the most powerful and productive activity we as human beings are capable of.
 - a. *Hannah (1 Samuel 1:11)
 - b. *Peter in prison (Acts 12:5)
 - c. *Hezekiah prays to save God's people (2 Kings 19:19)
 - d. *Jairus prays that his daughter wouldn't die (Mark 5:23)
 - e. *Moses asked to see God (Exodus 33:18)
 - f. *Elisha prays for God to reveal His power (2 Kings 6:16)
 - g. *A thief on a cross asks for forgiveness (Luke 23:42-43)
 - h. The swift and powerful movement of the Spirit recorded in Acts was not only initiated by prayer but fed and sustained by prayer as well.
 - i. The early church was a praying church and through prayer alone accomplished the opening of prison doors, fanatical opponents struck down and converted to Christ, and sign and wonders to name a few.
 - j. *The early church knew the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through prayer not just theoretically but experientially. They prayed because they were filled and they were filled because they prayed.
 - k. The movement of God is always preceded by God's people being moved in prayer.
- 2. Prayer draws us into intimacy with Jesus and extends our reach beyond imagination.
 - a. Drones and prayer
 - 1) Drone warfare: unmanned aerial vehicle piloted by someone far, far away and often inaccessible
 - 2) Prayer warfare: affecting situations with the power of God near or far away, often inaccessible and urgent
 - 3) *Intercessory prayer, Pray in the Spirit, Arthur Wallis, p.118-120
 - b. This is what prayer does for us. It focuses our whole being on the heartbeat of God. As your prayer life deepens, your heart breaks for the things that break God's heart.
 - c. *Andrew Murray in his book on prayer says, "Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God."

B. Welcoming/Receiving

- 1. Old Testament and Israel and the foreigner
 - a. Within the Law of Moses, there are over 40 commands for Israel to love the foreigner among them.

You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 19:34)

He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

- b. We were, in fact, foreigners to God and He welcomed and received us into fellowship with Himself.
- 2. Welcoming/receiving is the Great Commission in reverse!
 - a. Without leaving Modesto, you can reach areas of the world closed to the Gospel without a passport, without raising any support, and you will most likely not get arrested.
 - b. God has sent international students, refugees, and even some through questionable avenues to us so that they might know Jesus.*
 - c. Refugees in Modesto, mostly from the 10/40 window, the most unreached area in the world.
 - 1) Last year World Relief resettled 308 refugees in the Central Valley (many here in Modesto).
 - 2) This year, they are anticipating 475 plus to be resettled.
 - d. International students
 - 1) Over 750,000 students study in the U.S. from 188 countries and 60% are from the 10/40 window (these are students who will likely return to their country of origin).
 - 2) Mark Rentz, American Language and Cultural Program, after interviewing 3,000 international students about their experience in the U.S. observes, "All of the respondents said it was not their academic experience that they remember. Instead, the most valuable experience to them was their time with Americans and the opportunity to experience life in America."

*Imagine the impact if believers took the initiative and reached out to those students, inviting them into their homes and lives not just showing them life in America, but life in Christ? 80% of students come and go and never see the inside of an American home.

- e. Personal testimony: Wendy Warnock

III. What's next

A. Prayer

- 1. Tuesday mornings (6:30) and Thursday evenings (6)
- 2. February prayer focus

In January, we invited you into a rhythm of reading Scripture, a chapter in Proverbs each day. Now, we want to invite you into a rhythm of prayer. From February 1-13, we encourage you to talk to God about to whom and how you are being sent, and how you can support others who are bringing the Gospel to unreached hearts and places. Then, on February 14 through Easter weekend we'll be fasting and praying to God asking Him to save lost people this Easter season.

- B. Next week we are going to be bringing this series into action.