

Mother's Day | John 20:21, Acts 1:8, Acts 17:26–27

READ

John 20:21

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..."

Acts 17:26–27 (NIV)

"...he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands... so that they would seek him..."

2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (NIV)

"...who comforts us... so that we can comfort those in any trouble..."

DISCUSS

Opening Reflection

- Share about a person (like Monica in Augustine's life) who faithfully pursued God on your behalf. What impact did that have?

Understanding the Mission

1. What stands out to you about the phrase: "*As the Father has sent me, I am sending you*" (John 20:21)?
2. The sermon said, "*Maintenance is not the mission. Mission is the mission.*" Is there a place or time you felt yourself drifting into maintenance mode?

Demonstration and Proclamation

3. What is the difference between **gospel demonstration** and simply "being nice" or doing social good? (See Matthew 5:16; James 2:14–17)
4. Why is it important that the gospel is both **visible and verbal**? (Romans 10:14–15)

The Mission Has a Place

5. Acts 17 says God determined where you live. How does that reshape how you see your neighborhood, workplace, or daily routines?

6. Where do you naturally “live, work, and are known”? What opportunities for mission exist there?

The Mission Has You

7. The sermon said: *“The place that broke you is often the place God will use you.”* How have you seen this to be true in your life or someone else’s?

COME AND SEE (*Understanding the Text & Theology*)

1. The Mission Begins with God (Missio Dei)

- The mission is not something the church created—it flows from who God is.
- **John 17:18** – “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”
- God is a sending God: Father → Son → Spirit → Church.

2. Sent Like Jesus

- Jesus was sent **into** real places, real pain, real people (John 1:14).
- He demonstrated the Kingdom (healing, compassion) and proclaimed it (Mark 1:15).

3. Witnesses Empowered by the Spirit

- Acts 1:8 shows both **power** and **place**: Jerusalem → Judea → Samaria → ends of the earth.
- Mission starts locally and expands outward.

4. Geography is Theology (Acts 17:26–27)

- Your location is not random. God has placed you intentionally.
- Your home, workplace, and relationships are part of His mission strategy.

5. God Works Through Households and Relationships

- Andrew brings Peter (John 1:41–42)

- Cornelius gathers his household (Acts 10:24)
- Lydia's home becomes a church (Acts 16:14–15, 40)

6. Pain as Platform

- God redeems suffering for ministry (2 Corinthians 1:3–4)
 - See also: Joseph (Genesis 50:20), Peter (Luke 22:31–32)
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FOLLOW ME

1. Reframing Your Calling

- Where have you believed that your “real calling” is somewhere else, someday, or something bigger?
- What would it look like to believe: *“My current life is my assignment”*?
- Reflect on this:
 - Your zip code
 - Your daily rhythms
 - Your relationshipsHow might God be saying, *“Start here”*?

2. Examining Your Life: Maintenance or Mission?

- Is there any place your faith has become inward, comfortable, or routine?
- What would it look like to shift from:
 - Consuming → Sending
 - Attending → Witnessing
 - Safety → Faithful presence

3. Gospel Demonstration: Living It Out

- Where in your life are you already “demonstrating” the gospel (care, presence, compassion)?
- Where might God be inviting you to be more intentional?
- Consider:
 - Who needs encouragement from you this week?
 - Where can you step into someone's need, not just observe it?

4. Gospel Proclamation: Speaking It Out

- What makes it hard for you to talk about Jesus? Fear? Awkwardness? Uncertainty?
- Read Romans 10:14–15. Why is speaking necessary?
- Practice:
 - How would you explain what Jesus has done in your life in 2–3 sentences?
 - Who is one person you could begin a spiritual conversation with?

5. Your Address is Your Assignment

- Walk through your actual week:
 - Where do you spend the most time?
 - Who are the people already around you?
- Prayer exercise:
 - Write down 3–5 names of people in your “Jerusalem”
 - Begin praying daily for them this week

6. Your Pain as a Platform

- Where have you experienced deep pain, struggle, or disappointment?
- How has God met you there?
- Now ask:
 - Who is walking through something similar right now?
 - How might God want to use your story to bring comfort?
- Be specific:
 - A conversation
 - A text
 - An invitation
 - A shared story

GO AND BE (*Living on Mission*)

This Week’s Challenge:

1. Pray intentionally
 - For 3–5 people in your everyday life
2. Engage relationally

- Have one meaningful, intentional conversation
- 3. **Share personally**
 - Look for a moment to speak about your faith naturally
- 4. **Serve sacrificially**
 - Step into a need around you