

**“Built Together Part 17 - Mission” (3-10-24)**

**Series Review: Section 1 - Living in Community / Section 2 - Gifts for Building up in Love**

**Key Verse: Eph. 2:22** - “In him, you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

**Section 3: The Mature Church** - 4 Components of a Mature, Healthy church produces fruit & reproduces life

**Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**

(18) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) **Go** therefore and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- **Presence** (vs. 18 & 20b - He has all the authority . . . He is with us always)
- **Community / Fellowship** (19b - baptize them into this community - the God community)
- **Discipleship** (19a & 20a - “make disciples . . . teaching them to observe all I have commanded”)
- **Outreach / Mission** (19a - “go . . . all nations”)

**Today:** Part 4 of 4 - **Mission (carrying/shining the life of Jesus to others, fishers of men (enticing!))**

**Matthew 4:19 (ESV)**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (20) Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

**Note:** 3 key elements of being a disciple - Follow, Change, and **Mission** (From Matt. 4:19)

**Our Text Today** - 3 pictures of being on mission from the book of Acts . . .

**1) Peter and John - give attention to the Lord and your surroundings**

**Acts 3:1-8 (ESV)**

(1) Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. (2) And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. (3) Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. (4) And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” (5) And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. (6) But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” (7) And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. (8) And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

**Note:** Peter and John . . .

- Paid attention - gave themselves to seeing the person & his need
- Saw their normal surroundings in a fresh light - don't just accept the way things are
- Instead of focusing on their lack/in-ability, they gave him what they had - Jesus is enough

## 2) Philip - daily faithfulness & a responsive life to the Spirit

- Faithfully serving . . .

### Acts 6:1-5 (ESV)

(1) Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. (2) And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. (3) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. (4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." (5) And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and **Philip** . . .

**Note:** Philip saw the need and served. Nothing flashy, he helped distribute food and meet practical needs

- Circumstances provided opportunities . . .

(After Stephen's stoning a great persecution & scattering happens)

### Acts 8:4-8 (ESV)

(4) Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (5) Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. (6) And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. (8) So there was much joy in that city.

**Note:** Philip was a layman, a servant, but he opened his mouth and shared what He knew (Peter & John came later to reinforce and help shore up gaps). Persecution forced this move, but He didn't stop sharing Christ. Our location and circumstances may change (and appear to be for the worst), but the mission remains. God redeems even the most difficult circumstances if we'll let him!

- Spirit-led responsive life . . .

### Acts 8:26-27a (ESV)

(26) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. (27) And he **rose** and **went**.

### Acts 8:27b-31 (ESV)

. . . And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship (28) and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. (29) And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." (30) So Philip **ran** to him and **heard** him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (31) And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

### Acts 8:32-38 (ESV)

(32) Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. (33) In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." (34) And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" (35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. (36) And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (38) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

**Note:** Philip engaged the man and the scripture and shared Jesus. The eunuch is saved and baptized!

**Acts 8:39-40 (ESV)**

(39) And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **carried** Philip **away**, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (40) But Philip **found himself** at Azotus, and **as he passed through he preached** the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- Faithful in ministry (and invested in his family) . . .

(Paul & Luke on their way to Jerusalem, stop over in Caesarea)

**Acts 21:8-9 (ESV)**

(8) On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. (9) He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

**Note:** This is probably 20-plus years later. After years of daily obedience, and tending opportunities that arose, we have a man who is now known as an evangelist. Philip has 4 daughters walking with the Lord who are familiar with God's voice!

**3) Ananias - overcoming fear to go where, when, and to whomever he is called**

Paul (Saul) has met Jesus on the road, and has been struck blind, now led by the hand to Damascus, the place Paul was coming to hunt down followers of Jesus and imprison them. . .

**Acts 9:10-12 (ESV)**

(10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." (11) And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, (12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

**Note:** The Lord appears in a vision and sends Ananias to pray for a miracle

**Acts 9:13-14 (ESV)**

(13) But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. (14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

**Note:** Ananias considers the risk, and acknowledges his fear (based in reality!)

**Acts 9:15-18 (ESV)**

(15) But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (16) For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." (17) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (18) And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized

**Note:** The Lord said go, so Ananias went!

May we learn to overcome fear/obstacles/limitations to go and minister where God calls us.

**Conclusion:** A healthy church is abiding in the presence of God, committed to the fellowship of the saints, and is reproducing the life of Jesus in others by making Disciples who **Follow** Jesus, are being **Changed** by Jesus, and are on **Mission** with Jesus!