

## *“Fix Your Gaze & Tell Others”<sup>1</sup>*

This weekend is our mission’s emphasis weekend; so, that means I’ll be taking a break from the Hebrews series to focus in on the topic of missions. When we hear the word “missions,” we can think of someone going out to the remote villages of New Guinea or another person pastoring in Great Britain. Many times the word “missions” has a connotation to us of “global” outreach, getting outside of our hometown and maybe even leaving our own country to reach the “less fortunate.”

Certainly missions is to be *global*, but biblically speaking, missions is something that is to take place wherever there are Christians. To put it differently, Christians are to live on mission every day – and a part of that mission is to share the gospel message with other people around us.

Now, some of you hearing this might be starting to squirm. You could be thinking to yourself, “I was pretty comfortable with this being a mission’s emphasis sermon, but this is starting to sound like an evangelism sermon. I have a feeling this could be convicting.” And the reason you’re feeling that way is because you’re not evangelizing. (By the way, evangelism is simply sharing the gospel with other people and calling them to respond to Jesus by trusting in him for forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God).

### **What does it mean to evangelize?**

But not evangelizing is really something ironic especially for people who claim to be evangelical. But then again, the term evangelical has fallen on hard times. Nowadays if you were to ask someone what “evangelical” means, you would get a slew of responses. One historian said in the 1950’s and ‘60’s, “evangelical” meant anyone who liked Billy Graham. In the 1980’s, Billy Graham was asked what an evangelical was, and he said he was wanting to ask someone else what the term meant. In our day, the term evangelical comes up most probably during election cycles. And, from a reporting perspective, people see evangelicals as white Republicans.

But is that what being an evangelical means? Certainly, God saves people who are white. Certainly there are people within the Republican camp who are Christians. Certainly, there were individuals who came to know Jesus at Billy Graham crusades. But is evangelical a Billy-Graham-following, white Republican? NO!

The word “evangelical” comes from the Greek word “euangelion,” and it refers to a messenger of good news. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, this word describing Christians, spoke in contrast to the Roman culture that had their “good news” messages. The Christians stated that Jesus was higher than Caesar. Jesus’ kingdom was the perfect Kingdom. Jesus died and rose again to forgive us and bring us to God and give eternal life with the Lord. Therefore, these first century evangelists called people to turn to the Lord and follow him.

The same should be true today. This world is not our home. And while we should be concerned about what is happening within our world and we should seek to love our neighbors and communities, we also recognize that we love them best when our focal point in all we do is to point people to the majesty and goodness of our Lord. More than being known as white or being a part of a certain political party, we should

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<sup>1</sup> This manuscript has been through only one revision and is still in the rough draft phase. It is recommended that you utilize this alongside the audio sermon in order to gain more insight into the text.

be known as people who are followers of Jesus. As a result, we're most concerned about people and their souls. That's what we want to be known for!

As you hear this, I hope you resonate with this. But the reality is that many people hear sermons on evangelizing or they read their Bible about sharing the gospel; and I'm probably accurate in saying that most so-called "evangelicals" have one of two responses: **say almost nothing or say that evangelism is the whole point of life.**

Now, you might be shocked to hear me say this (and I hope to explain this, but bear with me until I do), but I believe both responses are wrong. In reality, I think the first response will lead to feelings of greater guilt. You're not saying anything and know you should be speaking, but you numb your conscience and don't speak even more.

### **Is evangelism the most important command?**

The second response takes one very important command and makes it the *most important command*. And, what is the *most important* command? The most important command is to *love God*. Other passages will say that we were created to worship Him. Humans were made to worship God. That's the greatest privilege a human can have: to know God's splendor and revel in him (who he is and what he does) for all eternity. If we take evangelism and put it above worshipping God, then evangelism will become about us and what we do. We will then miss the point in our messages. We'll simply say, "God wants you to get out of Hell and give you a wonderful life." We may even say things like, "Jesus is so wonderful because he gives you peace and love and joy," but since we're not thinking on God and his glory as supreme, we don't tell people that the greatest of all pleasures and delights is to worship God himself.

Even some of you here might be thinking, "Well, if we tell people that Jesus just saves us to know and worship God, then their lives won't change," but if you think that, you aren't realizing the power of God's glory. I personally fear that many people make evangelism merely about *humans* and not about God's glory. One man by the name of John Piper once put it this way, "**God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in him.**" **And, regarding missions, he said, "Missions exists because worship doesn't."**

So, hear me, evangelism isn't the greatest command. Worshipping God is the greatest command. And, as those who have trusted in Jesus, we've been set free to worship God. As a result then, evangelism is a fruit that flows from the greatest command.

If you don't know what I'm saying yet, hang tight. My desire in the message today is to encourage the weak who say almost nothing. To encourage you to worship God and savor Jesus and then to share with others about Jesus on the basis of being in the presence of God's glory. My desire is also to challenge those who do speak regularly to ensure that you're not distracted from Jesus in the midst of witnessing, but instead to encourage you to always remember the bigger picture: worshipping God. To state differently, my point in the sermon today is: **Look to God's glory in Jesus and then trust Jesus to speak the gospel through you to others.**

As I say this, I think this main point can be stated even more succinctly. But before I state it, let's pray together, asking God's grace on this time. . . . Please turn in your Bibles to Matthew 4:18-20.

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<sup>18</sup> While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said

to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.<sup>2</sup>

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**Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.** Look to God's glory in Jesus and then imitate him in speaking of him with others. Later I'm going to have us turn to another passage of Scripture, but for now, we need to camp out here. This is towards the beginning of Matthew's account of Jesus' life and ministry, and he says that Jesus started by saying to certain people, "Follow me." Here we have Peter and Andrew fishing. Jesus' response is follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Of course, we get the play on words. They're fishermen, and Jesus says that it's far greater to fish for men.

It's a passage like this that I can hear preacher after preaching saying, "So, get out there and fish for men! See people saved!" But they miss a very important phrase. Actually, if you mark your Bibles, I would encourage you to put a box around "Follow me, and I will make," and then put a circle around "you fishers of men." What must come before you can get out there and share the news of Jesus with others? You must follow Jesus. And, in following Jesus are you simply exerting willpower to prove how great of an evangelist you are? No. Who makes you a fisher of men? Jesus does!

Jesus makes it clear that He's the leader and he is also the one who empowers us to speak to others. As I look at this text, I see one very important truth that we *must* realize if we are going to actually evangelize to the glory of God:

### **1. Look to God's glory in Jesus as your life.**

When I was a child, there were several different things that I thought I wanted to be when I grew up. In Kindergarten, I wanted to be an astronaut. At another point, I wanted to be a chiropractor. At another point, I wanted to be a nuclear engineer. Then an architect. All of those things faded, and then came my greater desire. I wanted to be a pastor. By God's grace, he allowed me to follow straight in the path, and I've been pastoring for 14 years.

There are people who don't have the same opportunity as I have had. Some people have jobs they hate. Or, they have jobs they didn't dream of having when they were younger. Yet, most people in America would say, "pursue what fulfills you." And, in America, we tend to think if it's a high-paying job, that'll be where fulfillment is found. Yet, we even find so many people feeling unfulfilled in high paying jobs. You know, we have a tendency to have bad gauges in evaluating what would be ultimately fulfilling.

I give this illustration because of this story with Peter and Andrew. Jesus, who they had to have heard of before, comes up to them and says, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." How does that sound from a job opportunity perspective? Jesus, who isn't wealthy himself is giving them men a new job. Stop fishing and fish for men. That would seem like a strange job proposition. Have no financial security and fish for people. I don't think these men ever dreamt about doing this when they were little. Yet, something unbelievable happens. Matthew tells us that they left their nets immediately.

Why would they make such a tenuous and potentially fiscally foolish decision? What could possibly be worth the sacrifice? Matthew answers: they followed him. Do you see the point? Matthew didn't say "And they left their nets and told other people about Jesus." They did do that. But the reason for their sacrifice was primarily because of Jesus himself. Jesus was the reason for leaving behind their livelihood.

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<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Mt 4:18–20.

That's why I say "Look to God's glory in Jesus as your life." The livelihood of the disciples was fishing. How were they going to have food? How were they going to have money? And, by the way, the Scriptures tell us Peter had a mother-in-law – which means that Peter was married. What's going to happen when Peter says that he quit his day job to follow after someone who claims to be the Messiah? But these questions fall limp to the ground when you actually see Jesus in his glory.

But you could say, "Did they really behold the glory of God in Jesus?" Whether they could articulate it that way or not, they did. John 1 says "we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."<sup>3</sup> And then John adds, "<sup>18</sup>No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*."<sup>4</sup> Jesus declared God. Or, as another translation says, "he has made him known."

When Jesus spoke, he exuded the glory of the Father. Peter and Andrew saw that and left everything to *follow Jesus*. As a result of following Jesus, they then became fishers of men. You see here that "fishing for men" (or, evangelism) happens as a result of beholding the glory of God in Jesus. Evangelism takes place when you are seeking and savoring the Savior. Evangelism happens when God frees someone to worship the Lord and then that person is driven to see others worship God.

**Evangelism is God-focused, Jesus-birthed and Jesus-dependent.** When I say Jesus-dependent, I mean that evangelism loses all of its power if it's not done in dependence on Jesus. Evangelism means nothing if you're not focused on Jesus as your life and hope. Evangelism means nothing if it's not done out of hearts that truly worship and adore God.

This is what Jesus taught the disciples over and over again. He confronted their hearts. He confronted what they loved. He taught them how to live. And he taught them what it means to depend on him. Do you remember the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000? You could remember the sermon I preached on that. And, in the story, the disciples say they have *nothing* with which to feed the people. They then tell Jesus to send the people away, but Jesus says, "You feed them." The disciples, instead of saying, "How are we going to do this. Jesus, we need you to do this," they go out to the crowd to find some food. They come back with five loaves and two fish. Is that sufficient to feed the 5,000. It's almost as if the disciples say, "See, Jesus. This is all we have. Send them away." Then Jesus says, "Bring them here to me." And then the miracle begins. The disciples thought they had to fulfill the command, but that's not true. What Jesus commands, he also is the one who supplies the strength and ability to fulfill.

This is a lesson in faith. And these lessons of faith are throughout the Scriptures. Depend on Jesus. Rejoice in Jesus. Look to Jesus. Find that Jesus himself is your life. In everything, *follow* him. Or, as the writer of Hebrews has been telling us, "Look away to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of your faith."

As Matthew moves on, we see how in following Jesus, the disciples shared news about Jesus. But, it's not until after Jesus' death, that faith in Jesus and evangelism comes in sharper view. The disciples have spent years with Jesus. And now they've seen Jesus in his resurrected state. Their love for Jesus is renewed as they learn what Jesus did for them. He left heaven's glories to take the punishment they deserved – the wrath of God for sins – and through his sacrifice on the cross, gives them forgiveness of sins, freedom from shame and guilt before God, and the freedom to worship God *forever*. They have an eternal home waiting for them!

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<sup>3</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Jn 1:14.

<sup>4</sup> [The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Jn 1:18.

This love is astounding and causes the disciples to want to share this news of Jesus to others. And, Jesus himself tells his disciples that now is the time to go and tell others. They have followed Jesus and they are going to go out and fish for men by his strength. If you have your Bibles, turn to Matthew 28, and read verses 18-20 with me:

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*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”<sup>5</sup>*

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Here we see what it means to make fishers of men. In this text we see the need to Trust Jesus and Make Disciples by going, baptizing and teaching.

## **2. Trust Jesus to speak through you.**

Look at verses 18 and 20 with me: <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>20</sup> . . . I am with you always, to the end of the age.”<sup>6</sup>

Notice the emphasis of dependence on Jesus. How are you going to share the good news of Jesus and his death and resurrection? What if people make fun of us? What if people were to kill us? Jesus states that he possesses *all authority* in every realm. All cosmic powers, the angelic realm and the whole of the universe and galaxies are under Jesus’ control.

But I think there’s more that God wants us to understand from Jesus’ words here. I think Jesus is reminding them of the prophecies of Daniel 7, and telling them he has fulfilled them. In that chapter we read, “and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”<sup>7</sup>

Jesus is the One who was presented before the Ancient of Days and has now been given, as the God-Man, dominion over all nations and tribes. He’s the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures. He’s the King over all. His dominion will never be thwarted and will not pass away. This is the news Jesus is giving to these disciples – and to all of us who are followers of Jesus today!

This is glorious news, Ventura! We are part of a greater Kingdom than the United States of America. We have a family that extends across the globe and across generations! Jesus really is the Savior, and we have hope in him today!

But recognize that these words are in the context of Jesus telling his disciples to go out into the world. Sandwiching the command, he’s saying that he is the one who empowers them to speak. That means, Ventura, what I’ve been saying all along. If you’re going to evangelize, you must be looking to Jesus, who he is, what he’s accomplished – and let the knowledge of Him infiltrate your thoughts, will and emotion. When

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<sup>5</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#) (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Mt 28:18–20.

<sup>6</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2001), Mt 28:18, 20b.

<sup>7</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2001), Da 7:13–14.

the Holy Spirit fills you with the knowledge of Jesus, you will share him with others! So, if you're one who struggles with silence. Pray and ponder Jesus until you have to speak. And if you're still afraid. Speak. Speak because you trust Jesus, the glorious Savior! Speak because you know him.

That actually leads us to the final point:

### 3. Speak the gospel to others.

Because Jesus has all authority, he says to his disciples, **“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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” – Matthew 28:19-20**<sup>8</sup>

This past week I was talking with my kids about different commands of God, and singing is one of them. One of my sons said, “Is singing actually a command?” And I said, yes. It’s commanded for us to sing. They seemed a little shocked, but then I said, “God made us, when we’re most excited, to sing.” So, I said to them to think about when they get a gift. They may not sing, but their voices get a singing sound to it. There’s a squeal or high pitch noise they make. That’s because when we are excited, we rejoice and are led to sing. God doesn’t want to limit our joy. He wants us to have joy in its fullest form.

This idea transfers even to the truth of communication. When you’re excited about something, you have to share it with others. If we know Jesus. If we follow Jesus. If Jesus is enthralling, how can we *not* tell others about him. I mean, if I eat good food that gives me enjoyment for about 20 minutes, and I want others to taste it; how in the world can I not share Jesus with other people – and Jesus gives living water that doesn’t run dry?!

This is what Jesus is teaching here in the Great Commission. He wants the fullness of joy in the disciples themselves. If they don’t speak of the one they follow, they’re limiting their joy. And the same is true for us! When we hide the message of the gospel and don’t speak to others, we allow fear to limit our rejoicing in Jesus. Instead, Jesus is saying, “Now speak! Let the message loose!” Because Jesus is superior, now tell others of his superiority. The text starts saying, “Go.” The idea is actually, “Having gone.” It’s a command to go, but it’s also stating wherever you are, make disciples! Wherever you are, speak. So, if God’s placed you at Gentex or on the northside or southside of Holland or on vacation, speak of Jesus! Having gone, make disciples. Our Sovereign Lord is in control. Follow him!

As I think through a person who took the call of evangelism seriously because of his love for Jesus, I think of the Apostle Paul. One profound story in the book of Acts grips my attention. If you can, turn in your Bibles to Acts 19, and I want to read verses 23-27:

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*<sup>23</sup> About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup> For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. <sup>25</sup> These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. <sup>26</sup> And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. <sup>27</sup> And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she*

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<sup>8</sup> *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2001), Mt 28:19–20.

*may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship.”*

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Do you see what happened because of the gospel proclamation? God, through Paul's proclaiming Jesus faithfully, was opening people's eyes. And, it didn't just lead people to merely say they were going to follow Jesus, they actually did follow Jesus. The idol-making market decreased. Men were losing business and they saw this as a huge threat to their livelihood and also a threat to the temple of Artemis itself.

Ventura, do we believe the gospel is real? Do we believe that Jesus has power to save people? Now, clearly we don't have idol-making factories. But actually, we still have a lot of idols. There are so many things we worship. So many things we turn to for relief and joy in place of God. And, whenever we turn to these things as ultimate pleasures, we reject the Holy God (loving gifts above the Giver), and we also find that those created things cannot really, truly fulfill us.

But Jesus came to bring us to God – the One who fulfills. And in turning to him, sin in our lives begins to be killed. Lives are changed. And, how amazing would it be, Ventura, if the world around us actually said, “These people are following Jesus, and we can really tell they're following Jesus!” How amazing if the porn industry suffered not because of riots against them, but because God changes the desires of people in their hearts. What would happen if God shaped people's hearts so that they weren't merely consumeristic, but they actually became more sacrificial and giving? What would happen?

Now, the point of all of this isn't that Jesus came so that we could be nicer people. The point of this is that Jesus came to show us God – and when we are reconciled to God, we want to make Him known in all we do! That has to have an affect in our actions. This reminds me of Paul's words to the Corinthian church, when he said, “. . .the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”<sup>10</sup> Here were people who once followed their one way of doing things, and yet Jesus rescued them. Now, they're a community of believers following Jesus.

Do we actually believe the gospel message we proclaim? Do we believe the message itself is God's power that leads people to salvation? There's power in the message! Think back to Jesus' words in Matthew 28. And think about the context of the book itself. Matthew wrote this letter around 30 years after Jesus' resurrection, and this letter was written to be spread to local churches. It quickly made its rounds, and when the churches read this letter and came to the conclusion of it, they would have read the phrase “Make disciples,” thinking about the example of what they'd seen from the apostles and disciples.

Over the course of 30 years, multiplication took place. In the book of Acts, we see a small group of people praying and then Peter preaching and thousands coming to faith in Jesus. We see that people were added to their gathering, and they would assemble and also care for one another. There was leadership and service and sacrifice. Eventually, God brought trial in Jerusalem, and people spread to different areas to share the news of Jesus. More people came to faith in Jesus, and then we start to hear of more churches in various towns. Then Jesus calls Paul to be an apostle, and Paul's passion is to spread the news of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Paul is so concerned about these people – and then once people follow Jesus, they're connected with local churches in various towns.

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<sup>9</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), Ac 19:23–27.

<sup>10</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton: Standard Bible Society, 2016), 1 Co 6:9–11.

This is what it means when Jesus says, “Make disciples, baptizing, teaching to observe.” Evangelize. And once Christ changes hearts, then baptize those people who have professed faith in Christ. And, those baptized believers need to continuously be taught how to obey the commands of Jesus.

So, what does this mean for us, Ventura? Instead of me telling you what to do, I want you to ask yourselves some questions. Write these down. Pray through them during the week. Ask God to teach you. First question.

**a. Do I know Jesus?**

I’m not asking, “Do you know about Jesus?” I’m asking if you have seen the glory of Jesus as revealed in the Scriptures and do you entrust yourself to him as your life and salvation? Have you recognized the exceeding sinfulness of your sins against God and have you been melted and moved by the message of Jesus’ death and resurrection that pays the penalty your sins deserve and gives you glorious and free access with God? Do you *know* Jesus?

**b. Do I want to live for God’s glory?**

Do you want God to be magnified above all and do you want to glory in God in all you do? The only way you can truly know God is through prayer and the Word. So, when you pray and when you read, do you really seek to know more *about* your God. The Bible isn’t primarily a book of rules, telling you what to do. The Bible is primarily a book telling you about the nature of God himself. Do you savor him?

Can others tell? Maybe to add to this question, ask this as well, “If someone were to tell a co-worker that you were a Christian, would they be surprised?” Do people know about your love for sports and certain foods and have they seen pictures of your family? All of these things excite you, but isn’t Jesus more glorious? And, doesn’t Jesus actually save people from eternal punishment?

Ventura, we need to lay aside being known primarily about *other things*, and seek to live life with the greatest identity: Christian. Which, by the way, was the accusation laid at the followers of Jesus in Antioch. The people said these disciples were “little Christs.” Can you imagine if someone calls you a “little Jesus?”

May it be said at all of our funerals, “This person loves Jesus.” How sad it would be if the highlights at our death were statements like, “Well, Pastor Timothy liked watches and was a really nice guy,” but there’s nothing about Jesus. Oh how I pray that people know that God is my enthralling passion! And my greatest delight is when God grips hearts and causes people to love and adore the glorious God!

**c. Do I want others to know of our glorious God?**

Here’s the clincher. I think we’re much more comfortable being known by political affiliation or moral standards. But to be bare of those things and to only be known as Christ-followers feels vulnerable to us. Why is that? There could be many reasons. But do you find God glorious? And if so, why would you *not* share with others about how glorious God is?

Now, when I say to tell others about our glorious God, let me probe that a little more. Why is God glorious? Many people will say that he’s glorious because he gives us things. He gives us Heaven. He gives us hope for reconciled relationships with people. He gives us his Bible so we know how to live. He takes away addictions in our lives. And, these things can be true. But so many times when I hear people talk about *why* God is so

glorious, they don't say that God is glorious because *He* is glorious in and of himself. Instead, it seems like people believe God is so glorious because he centers everything around us.

But is that true? Is God most glorified when we are the center of his attention? No. If we are the center of God's attention, then God diminishes himself. And, we were created for *him!* Our delight is His glory in and of himself. So, do you know how gloriously enthralling and amazing God is? If so, you'll want others to know Him. He's so good, you want everyone to know him. And you'll take pains to see others know him more.

**d. Am I willing to sacrifice to make disciples?**

Years ago, in college, I had a class on the topic of evangelism, and in that class, my teacher said something like, "What would you say of a woman who delivers a baby and then walks away from the baby, never to return?" We would call that horrific, wouldn't we? And, to add to this, you have a baby and there's a lot more work to be done for the rest of your life on behalf of that child.

The same is true for those who are given new life in Jesus. Jesus here doesn't only say, "evangelize." He says "make disciples." Once they come to faith in Jesus, baptize them. And then, based on their profession, teach them how to obey Jesus. This is a lifelong process. And, this actually is the work that God gave local churches. The bulk of the New Testament is written to local churches to fulfill this command to make disciples and to teach one another how to obey. So, it's no wonder the apostle Paul calls Christians to sacrifice for one another and love one another and serve one another. God intends for us to grow in being more like Jesus. And the Scriptures command us to sacrifice so that each of us can grow in Christlikeness.

As you think of each of these questions, evaluate your heart and pray that God either gives you or increases your love for him. If you know Jesus and love God's glory above all, you will tell others about Jesus and you will sacrifice for the good of fellow Christians. If God grips you, you'll talk to your neighbors. You'll talk to your co-workers. You'll seek to find ways to reach out to those who do not know Christ. You will also think through ways to sacrifice even within the church context to reach out to one another and encourage one another in Christ.

In all of this, **trust Jesus is the Sovereign One over all, and believe that he will continue his mission of bringing people from every tribe, nation and tongue to himself. You and I have a mission: to savor God's glory in Jesus and to share that glory with others until he comes again. Follow Jesus and he will make you fishers of men!**