



SERMON GUIDE  
4-WEEKS ON MISSIONAL LIVING

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## INTRODUCTION

As the Church, we are a people sent into the world on a mission: to proclaim the Gospel in the midst of spiritually dark and empty culture. Therefore, we should be a certain type of community, one that is:

1. Sent *by* Jesus (John 17:18, 20:21, Acts 1:8)
2. Sent *with* the Cross (1 Corinthians 1:18, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 2:14)
3. Sent *as* a Community (Acts 2:42-47, John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:16-17)
4. Sent *to* the Culture (John 1:14, Matthew 20:28, Luke 5:29)
5. Sent *for* the King (Matthew 10:7, Luke 4:43, John 18:36, Revelation 11:15-17)

Since the inception of Harmony Church, our very goal has been to make Jesus famous by the creation of a new culture, one based upon and rooted in Scripture. This culture is to be made by a community infiltrating the existing culture, rejecting what is not of God, renewing what can be used for God, and creating new cultural pieces for the honor and fame of God. In order for a *community* to infiltrate the culture, it necessarily means that the *individuals* must infiltrate the culture as well: to be active and aware of one's surroundings with respect to Jesus is to live missionally (or "on mission").

Hopefully, this series and reader will guide you into a missional lifestyle, so that even the mundane/monotonous/everyday things of your life will be used to glorify Jesus.

May you look to Him, the Savior King who is sovereign over all, as the ultimate Mission-Giver, and the reason why we live in the first place.

for the glory of God and the good of Greenville,  
-Derek Brown



## A MIXED MULTITUDE

*“A MIXED MULTITUDE ALSO WENT UP WITH THEM, AND VERY MUCH LIVESTOCK, BOTH FLOCKS AND HERDS.”*

EXODUS 12:38

### SERMON OUTLINE

#### I. A Look at the Mixed Multitude

- a. When the Israelites Leave Egypt, There Are More than \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. Four Reasons Why They Would Have Left with the Israelites
    1. Their Country Was \_\_\_\_\_
      - a. People today see the futility of their sin and brokenness of their world. They see that their way isn't working. Their 'country is \_\_\_\_\_', in today's terms.
    2. They've Seen the \_\_\_\_\_ Work Firsthand
      - a. People have seen \_\_\_\_\_ work in their midst...and want to know more. Miracles have happened, a check came through, etc.
    3. They Enjoyed the \_\_\_\_\_
      - a. People enjoy us as Christians. We're real, we're \_\_\_\_\_, we love our families, we work hard, we love Jesus, and have fun at the same time.
    4. The Israelite People Formed \_\_\_\_\_
      - a. We have intentionally formed relationships with non-Christians. We invite our neighbors over. We hang out at the same places with Gospel intentionality.

#### II. What This Means for Us

- a. The mixed-multitude concept in the early church
- b. Harmony Will Not Grow Primarily Because of Big Events, but Because of \_\_\_\_\_, Seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship Forming
- c. How to form those relationships
  - i. Hanging Out at the same places \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_



## WHO'S YOUR MIXED MULTITUDE?

- I. Do you know at least one non-believing person that is going through a tough time (financially, emotionally, relationally, socially) in their life right now? Write their name(s) down below. Perhaps they are people who would come on the Exodus because of a 'devastated country'.
  
- II. Do you know at least one non-believing person that has seen God work in their midst? Someone who has seen a friend/relative healed recently? A check came at just the right time, perhaps? Write their name(s) down below. Maybe they are people who have seen the Work of God firsthand.
  
- III. Do you know people who aren't believers yet, but who love to hang out with you at nearly every event you're at or attend? They love to talk to you all the time about anything and everything. Write their name(s) down below. Perhaps they are people that enjoy the 'Israelite people'.
  
- IV. Do you have people that you have been intentionally pursuing for the purpose of leading them to Christ? You hang out with them regularly, talk spiritual issues, and attempt to answer their questions. Write their name(s) down below. These are people that you are forming relationships with.



## MIXED-MULTITUDE FOLLOW-UP

1. In your Home Group, or amongst family, discuss your 'mixed multitude'.  
How can you show compassion to those whose home country is devastated?

How can you point those who have seen miracles to the Miracle-Worker of Christ?

How can you direct people who are affectionate towards you towards Christ as well?

How can you lead people you are intentionally pursuing into a mature relationship with Christ? What would the next step be for every name on your list?





## GOSPEL HOSPITALITY

*“DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS,”*  
HEBREWS 13:2

GENERAL NOTES ON HOSPITALITY (FROM JEFF VANDERSTELT)

### **What is hospitality?**

In general, hospitality is about treating a stranger as an equal to the host by creating space for him to be protected, provided for and taken care of, all of which is followed by assisting and guiding him on to his next destination.

### **Where did hospitality originate?**

God. For instance, consider what God did in creating the world, the garden and humanity to live in it. He gave them all they needed to enjoy life restfully while doing the work He created them for. He gave them space to be, enjoy creation and each other and to walk in relationship with Him. They were given both the space and the capability to create, work and exercise authority all while being graciously provided for so they had the resources necessary to do it.

### **Where does Jesus’ culture fit into hospitality?**

Jesus entered into a culture that was informed by a variety of worldviews (Roman, Hebrew and Greek to name a few). In this culture, the concept of hospitality found its etymological roots from a few different streams:

1. The idea of taking in a hostile stranger or enemy and treating him as you would yourself
2. The Greek practice of hospitality where a stranger passing outside a Greek house would be invited inside the house by the family. The host washed the strangers feet, offered him/her food and wine and only after he/she was feeling comfortable, could be asked to tell his/her name.
3. The above practice of hospitality stemmed from the thought that the gods mingled among men and if you played host to a deity poorly, you would incur the wrath of a god.
4. Another shaping force in the concept of hospitality in Jesus’ day was the Hebrew understanding (as briefly considered in the passages above and demonstrated also in the story of Lot and the angels– Genesis 19)

### **What was Jesus’ response?**

Jesus comes into this context and calls the weary to himself, feeds the hungry, mends the broken, eats with sinners and tax collectors, washes his disciples’ feet...and ultimately gives his life to cleanse



us from sin, deal with our unbelief and provide a way and place for us to rest.

He lives, loves, obeys, works, dies and rises again so that we might find a place of rest, renewal and recreation...ultimately so that we might be about God's purposes - saved to be His Hospitable People.

### **In light of the Gospel, how should we, as the Church, be hospitable?**

We might define hospitality as the creating of space that allows people to **be** who they are in Jesus (come into the light of Christ), to **become** renewed (changed by the work of Christ) and then to **do** the works God has saved them for (recreated in Christ for good works).

#### **be**

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve were naked and unashamed. God had created a place and made space for them to be themselves without covering or facades. If we are in Christ we are clothed with His righteousness – we don't need to cover up or hide. One of the ways we create space for people to experience and come to understand the Gospel is by creating space for people to reveal their true self and see that they are loved regardless of the “wrinkles and scars” of sin. That is, we strive to create environments where people can feel loved, not judged. Accepted, not rejected.

#### **become**

The Gospel isn't *only* about loving and forgiving sinners. It is also about restoring broken and marred people into healed and whole people who grow up to become imitators of Jesus Christ – restored image bearers of God. Jesus created space for people to be and to become (Think Mary, Peter, Thomas, the woman at the well, the blind man, the paralyzed, etc...). Gospel hospitality implies creating space for people to be known, to be real, to be loved and ultimately to be led with the Holy Spirit's help to healing and wholeness through the work and person of Jesus Christ.

#### **do**

The movement of the gospel goes from who God is and what He has done on our behalf so we can rest in the person and work of Jesus Christ and move forward into the works He created us to do (See Ephesians 2:8-10). This is the result of Jesus' Gospel hospitality. He got on the same level with his enemy – becoming human. He became our servant – to the point of death. He spent all that he had in order to clean us up – by becoming our sin and giving us his righteousness (2 Cor 5:21). Then He sent us His Spirit to empower us to do good works for his sake so others could be welcomed in to the family.



## APPLYING GOSPEL HOSPITALITY

- I. How can you, in your own home/apartment/condo/townhome, create a space where everyone and anyone feels accepted regardless of their past history or current state?
  
- II. How can you also create a space where while people are accepted where they are, they begin to desire to become whole in Christ?
  
- III. How can you further create a space where people are able to do what Christ has called them to do?
  
- IV. Apply the above three questions to Harmony Church now. How can we create a community where people are free to **be** who they are, but want to **become** whole in Christ, and then to **do** the works they are created for? What environment do *you* need to be/become/do?



## APPLYING GOSPEL HOSPITALITY

V. What practical events can you begin in your own backyard over the next month or so that will allow you to practice hospitality with your non-believing friends, co-workers, and neighbors? We've given some examples. List your own ideas below, not-forgetting thoughts on *how* you're going to implement them.

- Regular Weekend Bar-B-Que
- In-Home Movie Night
- Bowling Night
- Couples Date Night
- Gender-Specific Events?



# A SENT PEOPLE: THE THEOLOGY BEHIND MISSIONAL LIVING

As noted in the introduction, there are five major characteristics of a Gospel-centered, sent community:

1. Sent *by* Christ (John 17:18, 20:21, Acts 1:8)
2. Sent *with* the Cross (1 Corinthians 1:18, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 2:14)
3. Sent *as* a Community (Acts 2:42-47, John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:16-17)
4. Sent *to* the Culture (John 1:14, Luke 5:29)
5. Sent *for* the Creator-King (Matthew 10:7, Revelation 11:15)

Let's look at each one, and break it down with regards to the Scriptures listed.

## Sent By Christ

Jesus is not the original sender. In fact, Jesus Himself has been sent to us to proclaim the Gospel. See for yourself here:

*“Jesus answered them, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.’”*  
-John 6:29

But the sending didn't stop there. And neither are we sent powerless. The Father has sent to us the Son, who has both proclaimed the Good News, and accomplished the Good News. But then, the Son sends the Church the Holy Spirit:

*“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about me.”*  
-John 15:26

We see here a pattern developing: the sent one is to bear witness, or testify to, the one who has done the sending. The Father has sent the Son, so the Son bears witness to the Father. Jesus has now sent the Holy Spirit, who in turn bears witness to Jesus. But then look at this:

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’”*  
-John 20:21



But the pattern is not to be broken. We, as the sent ones, are to bear witness to the sender, Jesus Himself. But what does this look like?

## **Sent With the Cross**

We have not been sent message-less. The message that we are carrying is the one of the Cross. The message of salvation. The epitome of Christ's work on earth. The Cross is the centerpiece of all of history. And it is the message that we carry. For on the Cross, our sin was paid for and our righteousness secured. The wrath of God is made absent, and we are reconciled to Him, all hostility removed:

*"And might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby killing the hostility."*  
-Ephesians 2:16

*"By canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the Cross."*  
-Colossians 2:14

As a sent people, it is the news of the Cross that we proclaim to both the religious and the rebel; no matter peoples' reaction to it:

*"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*  
-1 Corinthians 1:18

Even though we would have the power of the Spirit, and the message of the Cross, we would still be lacking. Nevertheless, we are sent not powerless, not message-less, and not friend-less either.

## **Sent As A Community**

Living out the mission of Jesus is not a one-man show. In fact, it *can't* be. We see that we are commanded to love one another, and that it is through this very communal love that people will see that we are indeed the Sent Ones of the mission of God:

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*  
-John 13:34-35



We see even how the early church worked this love out in community in the book of Acts through home fellowship, public teaching, and the addressing of social justice issues:

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

-Acts 2:42-47

We are called to do the work of Christ; to be His hands and feet is our mandate on earth. But we cannot do it without an environment to do it in.

## **Sent To Culture**

Culture is not a bad thing. It is not inherently evil. In fact, culture started with God. In Genesis 1, God commands Adam and Eve to “be fruitful and to multiply”. That is, do things and make babies. That is the very essence of culture: it is a group of people doing and being. Period. Now, because we are rebels at our core, much of our natural culture is rebellious to God. And those things should be rejected. There are aspects of our culture, however, that can be redeemed, or brought back, into a right worldview with God. And still other aspects of our natural culture are missing...so we must create them in order to provide a holistic approach to Jesus. This inherently means that as a sent Christ-following, Cross-preaching, Community-belonging missionary, we have to surround ourselves in culture, much like Jesus Himself did with the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman-Judeo culture:

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

-John 1:14

Though we are sent as a community, we must also branch out and surround ourselves with people that do not follow Christ. Our Lord has given us this example as well, as He often partied and ate dinner with ‘sinners’ of the day:

*And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them.*

-Luke 5:29



But we are finally not sent for our own name's sake, or even *in* our own name. Rather, we are sent as ambassadors of a Sovereign King, Jesus Himself.

## **Sent For the Creator-King**

As we go we are not only to relate the message of the Cross, but also *why* reconciliation to God is a good thing. The reason why is that He is a Benevolent and Sovereign King, whose Kingdom is coming quickly, and whose rule is just. We are told to proclaim His Kingdom just as loud as His Gospel:

*“And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”*  
-Matthew 10:7

And this will never end, but we will one day see the restoration of God's eternal Kingdom, as the angels proclaim in Revelation:

*“Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.’”*  
-Revelation 11:15

## **Conclusion**

We are therefore a **sent people: sent by Christ, with the Cross, in a Community, to a Culture, with our Creator-King.** The next section is a sermon-guide for the next couple of weeks. It provides space for some notes, as well as some practical tips on what you can do even in your own life and backyard to begin proclaiming the love of Jesus via the Cross as loudly as you possibly can without losing your voice.



## SEEKING THE CITY'S WELFARE

*"BUT SEEK THE WELFARE OF THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU INTO EXILE,  
AND PRAY TO THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF, FOR IN ITS WELFARE YOU WILL FIND  
YOUR WELFARE."*

JEREMIAH 29:7

### SERMON OUTLINE

- I. The Background Behind the Letter
  - a. Israel is Taken into \_\_\_\_\_
    - i. What is \_\_\_\_\_ for us?
  - b. The Leaders' Viewpoints
    - i. Wrong Way 1: \_\_\_\_\_ (Give in)
    - ii. Wrong Way 2: \_\_\_\_\_ (Fight)
    - iii. God's View: \_\_\_\_\_ (Redeem)
- II. Instructions for \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Build \_\_\_\_\_ and Live in Them
    - i. Gain real estate
    - ii. Go about your everyday business
  - b. Plant \_\_\_\_\_ and Eat their Produce
    - i. Obtain gainful employment
    - ii. Use the fruit wisely and for your own joy
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ Wives and \_\_\_\_\_ Sons and Daughters
    - i. Get married and establish a family
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ Wives for your Sons; \_\_\_\_\_ your Daughters in Marriage
    - i. Establish a Legacy
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_ There...Do Not Decrease
  - f. Seek the Welfare of the City
    - i. Pray to the Lord on its Behalf
    - ii. Opportunities



## SEEKING THE WELFARE OF THE CITY

- I. List 7 specific items you can pray for Greenville. If you can't do this, do some research, and become more aware of the needs in Greenville.
  
- II. Volunteer with city organizations (like our own serve.Greenville) for the betterment of the city. List some organizations you'd like to work with, or issues you'd like to help address.
  
- III. Are you building houses, planting gardens, establishing families, and building a legacy? Where do you need to focus your efforts?
  
- IV. Do you regularly pray for Greenville? If not, take the next week and pray for one of the 7 things you've mentioned above every day. If you do pray regularly for Greenville, incorporate the things above into your prayers.



## A MISSIONAL READING LIST

ALL LISTED BOOKS ARE ABLE TO BE BORROWED. FIND THEM AT THE HARMONY CHURCH OFFICES. LISTED BELOW WITH RATINGS.

Organic Church.

*Neil Cole*

4.5/5

Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Disciplines of Missional Leaders

*Earl Creps*

3/5

Radical Reformission: Reaching Out Without Selling Out.

*Mark Driscoll*

4/5

Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture.

*Michael Frost*

2/5

The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church.

*Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch*

5/5

The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church.

*Alan Hirsch*

3/5

The Missional Leader.

*Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk*

2/5

Breaking the Missional Code.

*Ed Stetzer and David Putnam*

5/5

Planting Missional Churches

*Ed Stetzer*

5/5



## A MISSIONAL FILM LIST

THE FOLLOWING MOVIES DEPICT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FOR SOMEONE TO BE 'INCARNATE' INTO A PARTICULAR CULTURE. (FROM MICHAEL FROST'S EXILES)

### Babette's Feast (Denmark, 1987)

1 hour, 43 minutes, Foreign

*A tale of grace, generosity, and food in a community controlled by strict religiosity.*

*Derek: 5/5 for missionality*

*Rotten Tomatoes: 13 reviews, 100%*

### Smoke (US, 1995)

1 hour, 52 minutes, Drama

*A look at the power of friendship, community, and storytelling based around the habit of smoking.*

*Rotten Tomatoes: 27 reviews, 93%*

### Big Night (US, 1996)

1 hour 49 minutes, Comedy

*The story of a clash between two Italian restaurateurs: one a purist, the other prepared to compromise for his customers.*

*Rotten Tomatoes: 51 reviews, 96%*

### Fight Club (US, 1999)

2 hours, 19 minutes, Drama

*A popular film about the subversive nature of community and the uselessness of the American Dream. Also addresses issues within masculine community.*

*Derek: 4/5 for missionality*

*Rotten Tomatoes: 125 reviews, 81%*

### Chocolat (US, 2000)

2 hours, 2 minutes, Drama

*A depiction of the clash between the traditional church and a community of grace, love, and acceptance.*

*Derek: 5/5 for missionality*

*Rotten Tomatoes: 114 reviews, 62%*



## A CLOSING LETTER FROM PASTOR DEREK

I'm seriously excited to see what's going to happen when we are all living out the Gospel, using every bit of our lives to contribute to the mission of Jesus. From cookouts to gym visits to visits to the dog park, every bit of our life can be on mission and proclaiming the Cross.

I encourage you to constantly review and pray over the comments and notes you've made in this workbook. Pray for Greenville regularly. I encourage you to get together with other Harmonites away from the Sunday morning Square Gatherings; get a bite to eat with one another or grab a cup of coffee before work. Hospitality is for strangers, but fellowship is for brothers and sisters.

Harmony Church is needed in Greenville. More specifically, Cross-preaching, Jesus-loving, mission-focused people are needed in Greenville. Let us pray that we are those people. Let us change Greenville...one person at a time.

with fire in my bones and passion behind my words,

*Derek Brown*

