**Matthew 28:18-20**

I. Statistics on world religions

-Christians 2.2 billion (31%)

-Muslims 1.6 billion (23%)

-Hindus (15%)

-Buddhists (7%)

-Jews 4 million in world

-One-in-six: no religious affiliation.

II. God’s surprising work around the world

A. It is an exciting time with great potential for gospel growth even in the midst of great brokenness and persecution.

B. Persecution in Asia is leading to the growth of the church

C. God is using the ISIS crisis to bring millions out of Islam who are fed up with what they are seeing

D. God is using Christian refugees from Asia and Africa to evangelize atheistic European countries

III. Evangelism quotes

A. “The mandate simply underscores a lifestyle incumbent upon the whole Church. There are no escape clauses, no substitute options, as we might say in the academic world, the great commission is not and elective course; it is part of the required curriculum.” –Robert Coleman

B. “The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” -- Hudson Taylor

C. “It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor.” -- Martin Luther

D. “I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.” -- John Keith Falconer

E. “The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.” -- Henry Martin

IV. Numbers 13

A. God said he was giving the land of Canaan to the Israelites but it still remained for them to take it by faith.

B. Most of the Israelites wanted to remain in the desert because they could only see what

was possible by their own abilities and strength.

V. God’s call on us today

A. It’s time for us to move from our comfort zone and make a difference through faith in God’s power. God will honor our steps of faith and respond. God didn’t call us to settle down and build our little kingdoms of security. He called us to join him in furthering his great kingdom.

B. 2 Corinthians 6:1: we are God’s co-workers. We are invited to participate with God in the building of his kingdom

C. Jesus’ model was very incarnational and relational. We must follow that example. It’s about being with people, listening to them, serving them.

D. Our mission must embrace both evangelism/church planting (“go make disciples”) as well as practical care for the poor and needy (“love your neighbor as yourself”)

E. It’s only the grace of God that can truly change us. People who truly know the grace of God will be gracious to others

**Discussion Questions**

1. On Sunday many statistics and global issues were mentioned. What stood out or surprised you in all that?

2. Sunday’s message was a strong call to step out of our comfort zones and reach the world for Christ. As you consider that call and some of the quotes in section III above, how does all that strike you at this time in your life?

3. On Sunday we discussed Jesus’ incarnational model of evangelism of simply being with people and serving them. What would embracing that strategy look like for you at this time? Where are the specific opportunities you have to engage people around you with the grace of Jesus?

4. Is there anyone in your life who doesn’t know Jesus who you’d like to be praying for specifically in the coming weeks?