

**Prayer Week**  
***A Broader More Narrow Vision***  
**January 1, 2012**  
**Text - Various**  
**Scripture Reading - Matthew 28:16-20**

I want to lead off prayer week by asking you to pray about something in 2012.

- A work through Radical
- *Broaden and narrow my vision for life and ministry.*
- Not a change but a tweak
- Same work in you???

I believe that God wants me to **narrow** my vision for life and ministry by *focus in on making disciples.*

- This was Jesus' focus.
  - o He ministered to the masses.
  - o But He focused in on the 12.
  
- This is what He called His disciples to do as well.
  - o **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**  
<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."
    - A call to make disciples (follower of Jesus)
    - A call to all
    - A call to go
    - A call to baptize
    - A call to teach
    - A call to depend on Jesus
  
- This is exactly what His disciples did.
  - o **Acts 1:8 (ESV)**  
<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in

Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

o **Acts 2:41-47 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

<sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...<sup>47</sup> ...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

o **Acts 5:42 (ESV)**

<sup>42</sup> And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

o **Acts 6:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

o **Acts 8:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

o **Acts 13:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

o **Paul’s ministry model**

- The same as Jesus’
  - Went
  - Led people to Christ
  - Taught them to obey
  - Poured especially into a few (Timothy & Titus)
  - Encouraged them to go and do the same
- Jesus changed the world by focusing in on making disciples of 12 ordinary men. I believe He is calling me to do the same.

I believe that God is calling me to **broaden** my vision for life and ministry by *making disciples of all nations*.

God's call to make disciples of all nations

- **Matthew 28:19 (ESV)**
  - <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples *of all nations*,...
    - o Ethne - People groups - Own language and culture
- **Matthew 24:14 (ESV)**
  - <sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to *all nations*, and then the end will come.
- **Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV)**
  - <sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every *nation*, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

God's plan to make disciples of all nations in the OT

- **Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)**
  - <sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup>And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and *fill the earth* and subdue it..."
- **Genesis 12:2-3 (ESV)**
  - <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you *all the families of the earth shall be blessed*."
- **Israel's history**
  - o Rahab, the Gibeonites, and Ruth
- **Psalms and Prophets**
  - o **Psalms 22:27 (ESV)**
    - <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
  - o **Isaiah 2:2 (ESV)**
    - <sup>2</sup>It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest

of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
*and all the nations shall flow to it,*

God's plan to make disciples of all nations in the NT

- **Jesus' ministry**
  - o Heart for Gentiles and Samaritans
    - Centurion soldier, Samaritan woman at the well, Canaanite woman severely demon oppressed daughter
  - o Call to make disciples of all nations
    - **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**  
<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of *all nations*,...
    - **Acts 1:8 (ESV)**  
<sup>8</sup> ...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, *and to the end of the earth.*"
- **Paul's ministry**
  - o **Romans 10:13-15 (ESV)**  
<sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
  - o **Romans 15:20-21 (ESV)**  
<sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

How are we doing? How close are we to bringing about the end of the world?

- 7 billion – 4.5 billion are not Christians
- 11,000 people groups – 6,000 unreached (less than 2% Christian)
- Many of the unreached live in the most impoverished, oppressed, and closed nations in the world.

- o More than 1 billion less than \$1 - almost 2 billion more less than \$2 - 26,000 children dying per day of starvation or preventable disease
- o Top 15% if we have food, roof, clothes, and transportation
- o Over \$10 billion a year on church buildings - institutional church real estate is worth more than \$230 billion

How am I doing?

What does this broader more narrow vision look like in real life?

- Radical pp. 90-92

What I'm asking you to do...

- Read Radical Together by the end of February
- Pray and ask God if He wants you to both broaden and narrow your vision for life and ministry as well.