

Given Sunday July 18th to the congregation at Bell Memorial Presbyterian Church at Ewing Park Shelter 7

Sermon Text: Matthew 28:11-19--Noah

If you brought your bible to the park this morning, I'd ask that you turn with me to the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 28 verses 11-19. I'll be reading from the NIV version

Listen for God's word

¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'

¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

When I say the word Mission, what comes to mind? Is it the trips others take to the Sudan and Mexico, or is it the local projects like the Carpenters Project and The Food Bank...what is your idea of mission. When Derek asked me to speak with you this morning about my recent trip to Mexico, I began to think how can I let these people know what they do impacts others?

Well how about we start with Mexico

When I was younger I understood we collected shoes for Mexican Families in Piedras Negras but, I didn't really understand why.

My Dad explained that he did this because he asked Diane Davis the director at CPC on his first trip, where are the shoes for the Children? Diane then explained to my Dad the kids grow out of the shoes so quick that the parents have to decide whether to get shoes for the kids or feed their family. So then often times they decide to choose food over shoes.

I'd signed up for this trip early in January and I was really excited to go...to be honest with you I'd been excited to do this since about 2002

We were off Sunday June 27th early in the morning for a 1,600 mile trip to Piedras Negras Mexico

We began building the house on Monday morning and we made great strides

A torrential downpour hit before we were off to lunch Monday.

One individual observed on Monday afternoon after siesta; "what do you expect we had a man named Noah going with us! That's why we had the rain"

As we continued to make progress on the home in the afternoon...God was working on more rain Yes it would continue raining all week! For the first time in the group's history it rained every day.

Part of it was because of hurricane Alex....

We continued to work through the rain

After 8 rows of block was laid on Monday along with an application of stucco and cement, we would continue the same work on Tuesday along with adding doors and windows.

Wednesday we spent just the morning working on the house.....and by Thursday morning...it started to look complete.

Well now your probably thinking "ok Noah you told us what you did to make the house but what did

you learn ...what did you gain from all of this?...

I learned that all people want is to improve their life for them and their family

I learned all Mexicans aren't involved in drug cartels like we hear about on the news or are all bad people.

I learned it takes all people to build a home. Everyone from an 84 year old man down to a young teenager

I learned a lot of Spanish....

But I think the most important lesson I learned is

We live in mansions here in America and we take some of our wealth for granted....the poorest person here is wealthier than the poorest person in Mexico. While we were in Piedras Negras we tried to make a brighter community for our brothers and sister in Mexico but, we just begun that rebuilding process.

We give them a house, they make it a home....what we did may make them want to spread their joy and giving around to others...who knows. There is a saying.... in the kingdom of God there are NO BOARDERS. We saw that while we were down there.

Often times I think people mistake mission as going somewhere, doing something, and coming back and sharing their experience with others. Mission starts small and ends large. Mission begins with what we do here and expands to what others do around the world.

As an example let's take the story of the woman and the small copper mite found in Mark 12.

Jesus says to the people; "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury: ... for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."

This shows us that if we give all we have to others, we are not only satisfying the Lord but, he has bigger plans for what we give than we could ever have imagined.

Just like at Rev. Alazar's church in Piedras Negras were I saw just small amounts of Pecos give of all you have and god will give you more than you could ever ask for

Don't say to yourself next time a mission opportunity comes up that you can't give or can't do because you don't have a lot or you don't think what your giving will help. In fact the smallest donation will help just like the big donations. Not just monetary donations but, a donation of items and PRAY

I listen to a podcast which is geared for high school students and it talks about the importance of prayer. Prayer is a powerful thing! Everyone can pray. If you can't do anything the one thing you can do is pray.

Now when I say the word mission I want all people to think of giving from the heart all you have whether it be big or small.

They do say the biggest things come in small packages.

Mission isn't just about going to Mexico and building a house or giving up a week for the Carpenters project to be a missionary, it can be as simple as helping a neighbor and praying with them afterwards.

Small things change people in big ways, even if you don't realize it at first.

What are you doing to be a missionary?

Let us pray...