

11-25-12

Series: [The Great Commission](#)

The Great Commission (8)

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

(Continuation from 11/04/12)

The Making Disciples of All Nations, Part 1

In [Acts 14:21](#), it says that the Apostles went out into the church and basically made disciples...brought people to follow Jesus.

[Acts 14:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ **After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,**

That's why we're here. Our motive, our motive is not to get a reward for what we've done, our motive isn't to be the number one soul winner in our church, our motive isn't to be able to rack up certain names that we've led to Christ and announce them to other people. Our motive is to glorify God, but our mission is to win the lost to Jesus Christ. This purpose and this mission are so absolutely clear, and I want you to listen carefully to this, that it isn't even repeated in the book of Acts. It isn't even repeated. There is no command after Matthew, and of course the great commission is repeated in all the four gospels, but after this, there is no repetition of this command. We are to make disciples.

We thank God for fellowship, for teaching, for praise. But that's not our goal. And I fear, beloved, that many of you have set that aside. I mean, there are so many opportunities to reach a lost world and there are so many lost in the world, so many small groups of people in remote corners, so many large nations that are lost, so many people across our country that are unreached and we stand in tremendous capability at this church to reach a world for Christ that we are constrained by the lack of commitment of so many people...and even of our own selves. We are bogged down. We are preoccupied with the inane.

We have in our society now an absolute fascination with trivia and people are playing games, Trivial Pursuit, there's even a game out called "Bible Trivia." May I be so bold as to say there is no such thing? We are bogged down in trivialities and junk and useless trivia of the world while people near and far do not know the saving message which is the only reason we're even around. Otherwise we might as well be in heaven. People are preoccupied with that which is absolutely useless. Their time, their thoughts, their energies, their money goes for all the junk imaginable. I always comment about how many stores there are that sell stuff nobody needs, and stuff you couldn't use...you just put it someplace. It doesn't do anything at all. Trivia!

We have resources in this church that are staggering. I figured out the other night that if you just took sort of an average figure and took the equity that people in this church have in their homes and took what might be an average yearly salary, and combined those things together, that would be the equity in your home and your annual salary this year alone, you are responsible for the stewardship of somewhere between 100 and 300

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million dollars. And here we come and say, “Please, folks, we need 250 thousand dollars to meet our needs,” and we haven’t even started to try to reach a world that is crying out to us for ministry, for missionaries, for radio programs, for everything that we, in a sense, can provide if we can ever get off dead center and turn loose of some of the junk of our lives and translate it into that which can accomplish the reason we’re here. **Why are we here if it is not to glorify God in the redemption of souls?**

I mean, there are people who will spend thousands of dollars to travel half way around the world to shop and wouldn’t spend half that much to send around the world to reach somebody with the gospel. I don’t think there’s a church our size that I know of anywhere that has a greater opportunity to reach the world than we do. We have that opportunity through every means possible, educationally, in terms of media, it’s all there, in terms of man-power. Look at the people and look how well educated biblically our people are and how much you understand about the Word of God and the things of God and the life of God, what an incredible resource. Not only do we have between 100 and 300 million dollars in money assets, potentially, but look at the man power and the capability and the wisdom and the gifts and the talents. But what happens with it? We are crippled by the indulgent mentality of a self-centered society into which most Christians have bought. And instead of thinking, “How can I sell my house and get a smaller one, take my equity and invest it in the winning of souls?” We’re thinking, “How can I get more money in my house and get a bigger one?” I mean, that’s just so basic.

But it’s frightening. A friend suggested to me that maybe the Lord hasn’t given us more money is because we’re such poor stewards of what He’s given us already. I mean, where...where are we really setting the priorities? A pastor friend was sharing with me that he has a technique that he always uses when people want counseling. He says people will call him and say, “Well, I have a spiritual problem; I have a burden I want to talk to you...” he’s an elder in his church, chairman of the elders, and he says, I always tell them the same thing, “I’d be happy to talk with you, bring your checkbook.” And people will say, “My checkbook?” “Yes, your checkbook.” “I want to go over your checkbook with you first before we talk about anything else.”

Well, the standard answer is, “Why do you want to do that?” And his answer is, “I want to see where your heart is.” Because Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, that’s where your heart is.” I don’t think he does a lot of counseling. Where’s your heart? Do you want to know where your heart is? Look at your checkbook, look around your house. People think that they need to store up all their money for the future, they need to lay it all away, you know, build up all their assets, make all their investments, hoard all they possibly can with the goal in mind of security in the future. That is Satan’s lie to this generation of Christians. Now I’m not saying you should be foolish. What I am saying is there’s a world to be won for Christ and who cares how comfortable it is for us?

What we have are misplaced priorities!