**Converge Church Planting Weekend**

**Sermon: Multiplication**

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Opening Prayer: fruitful lives -- multiple our lives....

In the early pages of scripture, we see God’s desire to multiply his creation.

Be **fruitful and Multiply**…that’s the phrase I want us to think about today.

God designed the church to be that way….

In Luke **Chapter 14**Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, gives the Parable of the wedding feast. And what I want to talk about today.

If you have your Bibles or smart phones... turn to: Luke 14:16-23

The Parable of the Great Banquet

Luke 14:16-23:But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ 19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ 20 And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ 22 And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ 23 And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.

1. God wants his house to be filled. (multiplication)
2. God invites us to invite others… in other words, Join in his work. (Collaboration)
3. Faithful servants make a way. (Dedication and tenacity)

It was customary to send two invitations to a party. The first to announce the event (Save the Date) the second to tell the guests that everything was ready. The guests in Jesus story insulted the host by making excuses.

When our two daughter got married, we sent invitations to family and friends months in advanced. I must admit that when people gave us lame excuses for not joining this celebration or didn’t even show up, we were a little hurt and frustrated.

God’s invitation came from Moses and the Prophets; the second comes from his Son - Jesus Christ. The religious leaders accepted the first invitation. But they insulted God my refusing to accept his Son, Jesus

The Master of the story sent out his servant into the streets to invite the needy to his banquet.

God sent his Son to the whole world of needy people to tell them that God’s Kingdom has arrived and was ready for them.

..the Lord said, Go out to the highways and hedges (borders) and compel (coerce) people to come in, that my house may be filled. *(Be fruitful and Multiply)*

There is a small word within this command that we can’t overlook. The servant was commanded to Go! This was given with full expectation of his obedience.

He was sent out to compel “them” to come in.. This was an open invitation whoever the servant encountered. Its no different for us today.

(Praise the Lord we serve One who compels all to come – whoever will!) EVERYONE IS WELCOME…EVERYONE SHOULD BE INVITED.

There was no time to waste. The meal had been prepared and yet there was room for more guests. There was a specific timeframe in which the task must be completed.

Tomorrow would be too late; the servant had to find and convince the guests to attend the meal that day! The time is now!

Verse 18-20…people make excuses…endure rejection… don’t take it personal.

Sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ, Evangelism it’s the key ingredient in multiplying the Kingdom of God.

None of us naturally drift to Jesus. We need rescuing, we need saving we need to hear the Good News. Verse 22 don’t give up. Evangelism benefits the other person, but it also benefits you…encouragement, purpose…joy!!

Research has shown that 79% of unchurched people would engage in a faith conversations if asked.

Did you know: 25% of people would come to church if you would just ask them?

Church planting is a simple process of telling people about Jesus and taking the time to help them follow Him to become His disciples.

*\*Tim Keller states:* A vigorous and continuous approach to church planting is the only way to guarantee an increase in the number of believers and is one of the best ways to renew the whole body of Christ.

USE YOUR OWN FAMILY PHOTO

When you multiply your family, when a baby comes into a family – it brings a new dynamic, it brings great joy & energy and the focus changes.

When a new believer comes into a Sunday school or small group – have you seen how it changes the dynamic, energy and focus of the group?

I think throughout the New Testament, specifically the Great Commission, is our mandate to be fruitful and Multiply.

\*Matthew 28:18-20… And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them inthe name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

When Jesus said “Go make disciples” Mt 28 - what did the apostles do? They started churches! Acts 2 is about multiplication

Go…really should be translated **“as you go”…** it’s an everyday activity.

One of the best ways to make sure you are multiplying the number of Christians in a community is to increase the number of churches in that community.

\*Only 4 percent of all US churches ever reproduce. Starting new Churches.

(Church for every 150 people) Prentice has a population of 660 We need a total of 4.4 churches just to reach every soul in Prentice. Price County 14,159 we need 94 churches to reach every soul.

Matthew 9:35-38: And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

That challenge has never been greater. 2020 mission assignment...if you’ll accept the challenge.

In the next 30 days: IDENTIFY Is God putting a person on your heart? then internally make a commitment to that person to talk to them about Jesus. Begin with prayer. Then don’t give up on them, which means you earn the right to speak into their life. It takes time… (tell someone... accountability) Face in your head?

In the next 30 days: INITIATE go across your yard, Go across your street, Go across town… (reach another person for Jesus Christ) Phrase, **“do you know there’s a God in heaven who loves you?”**

In the next 30 days: INVITE Be brave and courageous and invite someone to church. Take them out to lunch afterwards…talk about Spiritual matters.

John 15:16: you did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit...

**We were created to glorify God…. One way to do that is to share Him with others.** We cannot do evangelism in Heaven…. Now is the time.

Will you make a renewed commitment to follow our Lord’s command to share our faith with the world around us?

If you haven’t yet received and accepted Jesus Christ, the invitation is extended to you. Come to Him by faith today, repenting of sin and believing in Him for salvation!

He took the place on a cross rightfully meant for us, to pay for sins we’ve committed and will commit against God.

Let’s fast forward to the end of the Bible:

Revelation 7:9-10: 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, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Because you Multiplied yourself in this life, who is going to be in Heaven? Because your life was fruitful?

Is God calling you into ministry? Church Planting? Missionary- global work? Youth ministry? Please come up and talk to me… I am here to help guide you.

(Let’s stand as I close)

Use these next 30 days to cultivate a heart for the harvest… you have a game plan. No excuses!

*Prayer: Lord, Help us to live on mission and multiply our efforts to see more people in your kingdom because you used us as your mouth, your hands and your feet.*

*Give a heart for the least, the last and the lost that are all around us. Give us your eyes to see. Give us courage to reach one more while we can. We know when God’s people are deeply stirred with redemptive passion, the church becomes an unstoppable force. Help us go to those places and invite them in. Help us to be fruitful and multiply.*

*Jesus come into every home in our community. May each one of our neighbors have the privilege of tasting and seeing that you are good. May your invitation flow from our lips to a love-starved world.*

*Lord we ask ourselves, “Who is going to be among the great multitude in Heaven because of me-us?” Because you used me to share the good news….Lord, we know you want your house full.” Please give us the boldness and courage to reach one for your Glory.*

*Amen.*