



Christ-Compelled Multiplication

IT'S TIME TO GO FISH.

Christ-Compelled Multiplication is our third value of the *Free Methodist* Way. Multiplication sounds like a great math term, but here we would define it as: The Gospel of Jesus Christ – the message He proclaimed, the life He lived, and the ministry He modeled – set into motion a redemptive movement destined to fill the whole earth. The first Free Methodists planted 500 new churches in the U.S. between 1860 to 1880. Over the next 20 years, that number doubled to more than 1,000. Over the last 120 years, our total number of churches has declined to fewer than 850 churches. We have not multiplied well as a denomination. We need reproduce, to bring life from life. As a group, watch through Pastor Jim's message on *Christ-Compelled Multiplication* and engage in the questions below.

Open in prayer.

Opening Questions:

Pick one of the three questions to open your discussion. If time allows, you can come back to the other questions at the end.

- Talk about the person who was key in you becoming a Jesus follower.
- Have you ever seen something so exciting that you could not stop talking about it. Describe the event.
- Have you ever been asked a tough question about your faith? How did you respond?



Digging Deeper:

READ: Mark 1v16-20

This passage seems kind of crazy, Jesus sort of snaps his fingers, said “come follow me” and they left everything – their family, their business, their comfort – and followed Jesus

REFLECTION 1:

- Notice in verse 18, it says “immediately” or “at once” they left everything. Why is it hard to follow Jesus in our 21st century context?

READ: Luke 5v1-11

Now in this passage, we get the fuller story of how Simon Peter, James and John all gathered by the shore when they first meet Jesus. They are washing their nets when Jesus told them to ‘let down their nets’ after a long day in the hot sun. With some persuasion, they do just that and catch a whole lot of fish. Jesus takes this image and tells his new disciples they will now ‘fish for people.’”

REFLECTION 1:

- What stood out to you as you read this passage?

REFLECTION 2:

- Why do you think Simon, James and John ultimately decided to follow Jesus?

REFLECTION 3:

- According Jesus what is his agenda for those who would follow him?
-



READ: Matthew 9v35-10v1

This is one of those critical moments when Jesus trained His disciples by modeling what He wanted them to do, and then compelled them to do it themselves.

REFLECTION 1:

- Do you see yourself as a discipler/an evangelist/a worker in the harvest fields? Why or why not?

REFLECTION 2: (*choose one*)

- Have we neglected our missional imperative to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world, choosing instead to embrace the notion that the church exists primarily to provide services for the faithful?
- Have we been more consumed with preserving Christian culture in our nation than reaching the lost?
- Have we lost confidence in the power of the gospel to transform society through transformed lives, choosing instead to put our hope in political influence and power?

REFLECTION 3: (*choose one*)

- Do we view the world as a dark place to be avoided rather than a mission field to be invaded?
- Is there any spiritual pride that leads us to assume that our smallness is somehow an indication of our spiritual superiority?
- Has our historical resistance to the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit robbed us of our primary means of becoming a movement that transcends human initiative and resources?



Pastor Jim mentioned to be a multiplying movement again, we ought to embrace the call from Jesus in the Great Commission (found in Matthew 28:16-20; read it!) Jesus modeled four things for his disciples today to embrace. Let's reflect on these things together.

- *He saw.* Jesus did not isolate Himself from the world but put Himself in places that allowed Him to see people.
 - How am I intentionally and strategically finding ways to rub shoulders with those who do not yet know Jesus?
- *He cared.* Jesus' response reveals what He saw when He looked at people. He responded with gut-wrenching compassion because He saw their deepest needs (lost, helpless, harassed) rather than their outward status (sinners, rebels, enemies).
 - When I look at people, do I see them as a Republican or Democrat, a liberal or conservative, a mask-wearer or mask-shunner, a friend or enemy ... or do I see persons who desperately need to know Jesus and the life-transforming power of the gospel?
- *He prayed.* Jesus prayed that God would raise up workers for the harvest field. We should note that He immediately followed this prayer by sending out those who were already with Him. When we pray this prayer, we should never assume the answer is that God will raise up someone else. He is praying that more will come to know Him so more can be sent, but He clearly wants us in the harvest field.
 - In what ways have I rationalized my own unwillingness to enter the harvest field?
- *He gave authority.* Both here and in the Great Commission, Jesus very intentionally gave His disciples authority before He sent them out. He understood they would face significant challenges. More importantly, He knew they did not personally have the means to bring life to others.



Jesus simply asked them to represent Him, to be agents through which He would do what only He can do.

- What fears have prevented me from embracing Jesus' call to represent Him in my own mission field?
- Do I believe He is with me and will give me everything I need to do it effectively?

Can you imagine how our movement would multiply if every Free Methodist followed Jesus' example?

PRAY FOR BOLDNESS

This week ask for God to perfectly position you in someone's life so that you can "go fishing" for the rest of the year. Add this to your prayer:

"Sovereign Lord, enable me to speak your word with great boldness."

Boldness is simply speaking up when the opportunity pops up.

