

# A Vision to Advance the Gospel

Matt 22:37-40; Matt 28:19-20

**MPS** LifePoint Church exists to glorify God by leading people to be real Christ-followers in life...together.

**OBJ** Every person can understand LifePoint's vision to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ by two key passages.

**INTRO** Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law." Strong vision is necessary for gospel advancement. But, what vision? The prophetic vision of this passage is simply the revelation that God has given of himself and His kingdom in the world. **God's prophetic vision is to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of people through His church.**

Today is LifePoint's sixteenth anniversary of our first public worship gathering as a church. I want to take a few moments today and remind us all of why LifePoint Church exists. Then, I want to share a testimony with you of how God has been working in this season.

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**TRANS** All that we do aims to advance the gospel for more Jesus; to labor for more people come to saving faith, to labor for every person among us to become more like Jesus, and to labor for more Jesus to be known in every part of the world.

**OBJ** LifePoint labors to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ by **two key passages.**

**First, Jesus establishes the Great Commandment as the first priority for every Christian.** **READ** Matthew 22:35–40  
*And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup>"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"  
<sup>37</sup>And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.  
<sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." **Matthew 22:35-40***

Jesus confirms that the greatest, or first, commandment in Scripture is to love God with our whole being! God created people to glorify Him. Whatever consumes our affections of life determines what we worship. When we believe the gospel, repent of sin and trust in Jesus, we are given a new heart to know Him! Jesus centers all of life when we consume our hearts with Him through the gospel. **Christians are rescued from sin to live as a **WORSHIPER**; one engages the heart in Relationship with Jesus to grow an all-consuming love for God.**

And a love for God in Jesus that centers all of life does not remain only personal or for an individual, but extends to others. Jesus teaches that the person who loves God with their whole being will love others with their life. The way we love other people serves as a true measure to reveal our love for God. This love for others includes the whole of the way a Christian lives their life, to serve others as Jesus came to serve. <sup>Mark10:45</sup> **Christians are redeemed from sin to live as a **SERVANT**; one who engages the hands as the Expression of their new life to show love by meeting needs and doing good in Jesus' Name.**

The Great Commandment reveals for every Christ-follower that Jesus saved you to live as a **Worshiper** and **Servant** for His glory.

**Second, Jesus establishes the Great Commission as the advancing mission of the church.** **READ** Matthew 28:18–20  
*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." **Matthew 28:18-20***

Jesus commissions or sends his followers by His authority to make disciples of all nations. First, we must recognize that Jesus is addressing His followers. Becoming a Christian distinctively makes one a disciple of Jesus. The essence of being a disciple is "learner + follower"; one who learns the gospel truths of God's Word and lives them out by faith in life. Another



way to say this is that a disciple lives to “trust & obey” God as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. **Christians are renewed by God's Word as a DISCIPLE who engages the mind with gospel Truth to grow in the Authenticity of our new identity.**

And our growth in gospel truth leads us to share the gospel so others can know Jesus. Disciples live for more Jesus to make more disciples for Jesus. This isn't the work of the elite, special Christian forces, but the fundamental essentials of every Christian. Our personal relationship with Jesus commissions us to Jesus' Kingdom work. Jesus sends every Christ-follower by His authority to go and make more disciples of all people. **Christians are reconciled to live as a Missioner who engages the feet for Jesus' Mission as we are sent to share the gospel with all people.**

The Great Commission clarifies for every Christ-follower that we are Jesus' DISCIPLE who live sent as MISSIONERS to make more disciples of all peoples; being saved makes one inseparably linked to living sent for His glory.

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Some of you would say, “I've heard you preach and teach this so many times that I could do it.” And to that I say, “EXACTLY my aim. That every one of us would ‘finish the sentence’ when someone else starts it. That we would be so familiar with it that we couldn't get away from it, that we think every day; “THIS is what it means for my life to be a real Christ-follower. And this is the one aim and mission for why LifePoint exists!”

**TRANS** But more than being able to share and teach it, first my agenda is for us all to *live it to advance it!*

#### **Interview Seth & Deb Whittington**

I want to invite Seth and Deb to join me on the platform today. Many of you are aware, but for those who are not, Seth and Deb have surrendered to a call to full-time mission work. They are currently in the process of building partnership and raising funds so Seth can leave his current job and begin vocational, mission work. LifePoint is sponsoring and supporting the Whittington's in pursuing this call. As I have walked with them through discerning this call over the last couple of years, I could not be more excited to share it with you today.

**Seth & Deb** – share with us how you discerned that God was calling you to this work.

**Seth** – tell us about SOAR as an organization and what you specifically will be doing with them.

**Deb** – **how is this changing your family life and routine?**

**How can we pray for you? And, how can people get more information if they want to partner with you?**

