



It isn't often that we link things like "Lent" and fasting and spiritual disciplines to the idea of mission and reaching others. But these ideas are all connected. This week, we heard from Bob Blincoe, the Director of Frontiers, a dynamic missions organization. He challenged each of us to consider our place in God's global mission of redeeming humanity and all of creation.

How do we know when the church is doing its job? What does it mean for a church to have "success"?

Read: Matthew 28:18-20

What things is Jesus telling His followers to "do" in this passage?

Do the things that Jesus told us to go and do match up with the answers you gave about what it means for a church to be "successful"?

So we see that Jesus has asked us to participate in His mission of discipling people of all nations, baptizing them into the family, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded. We also might see that our definitions of Christian "success" might not always line up with what God asked His church to do. But in what ways must we empty ourselves so we can be filled with His Spirit to accomplish this great work?

Read Philippians 2:5-15

What example did Jesus leave us?

What happens when we live this way among a 'warped and crooked generation' (NIV)?

What are some practical ways each of us can live this kind of lifestyle out in front of others?

Make it personal (you can do this individually or with others):

Each of us must empty ourselves of our own selfish ways if we are to be used by God to reach others and invite them into His kingdom.

What selfish tendencies do you need to empty yourself of to be able to more effectively reach others? If you are unsure, spend some time in reflection and ask the holy Spirit to convict you and show you. You can also ask a trusted friend or your spouse to tell you (though that might feel risky, it can be highly enlightening!)

What are some specific ways you think God might be calling you to engage with His mission in the world? What gifts has He given you, and how can you use them to serve others and help make disciples?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for inviting me into the grand mission of bringing redemption to this world. Help me to follow the example of Jesus, and to humble myself so I can effectively serve others. Help me to empty myself of my selfishness. Holy Spirit, fill me and help me to be a bold and loving witness for the Gospel and for the Kingdom. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.