



“The 2020 Vision”

Luke 24:1-53

For about a year, God has been taking UPC on an interesting journey. The Elders began to sense a need to analyze the processes by which the church was seeking to know God, grow together, and serve others. In the process, they began to feel the church was not as effective in reaching non-believers as it once was. What was the problem? After much prayer, research, and discussion, the Elders agreed that the problem was methodology. The Elders acknowledged that the church was still operating according to a methodology similar to the one it started with, 20 years ago. Times had changed, Orlando had changed, and the culture of America had changed... but UPC had not changed - or perhaps not enough. The Pastors and Elders of UPC began studying a new (or, actually, old) methodology.

On November 4, 2012, Senior Pastor Mike Osborne made a bold proposal. With the full support of the Elders, Mike proposed that he move into the role of Associate Pastor and that Associate Pastor, Matt Ryman, move into the role of Senior Pastor. The church will decide (by vote) whether or not this proposal is God's will for UPC. Today's sermon, by Matt Ryman, is about the vision the Session shares for the future of UPC.



DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

1. How long have you been a member or regular attender of UPC? What are some of the things about UPC that were attractive to you when you first started attending?

2. The Elders of UPC believe it is time to transition from an "Attractional Church model" to a "Missional Church model." Do you understand the difference? Review the following definitions and discuss the possible benefits of such a transition.

Attractional:

- Church Leaders strive to design events, programs, and worship services that will attract non-believers.
- Church Members strive to "invest & invite" (bring non-believers to the events, programs, and worship services so they can hear the gospel).

Missional:

- Church Leaders strive to train and equip members to engage non-believers where they are at (work, school, neighborhood, etc...).
- Church Members apply training and engage non-believers in word & deed in an effort to make disciples who will make disciples.

3. Read Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17; Luke 19:10; Luke 6:40; and Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus came to make disciples and then sent them to make (more) disciples. Does the thought of being a community of disciple-makers excite you? Scare you? Discuss.

4. Read Luke 24:1-53. Jesus wasn't at the grave when the disciples arrived... where was He? What was He doing? (see vs. 15 & 36). How does this show us a call to go to people where they are, and no longer try to get them to come to where we are?

5. The disciples Jesus picked were ordinary, uneducated people (Acts 4:13). He turned the world upside down through them (Acts 17:6). Imagine what He might do through us if we train each other to make disciples and boldly engage our city and the world for Jesus!



DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:

1. People who share the challenges that come with being on a mission together tend to form very strong bonds with each other. How might your family be affected very positively if, as a family, everyone seeks to make disciples?
2. Read Acts 16. In this chapter, we see two household baptisms. This means that two entire families were baptized and joined the church. What would it feel like if your family was instrumental in sharing the Gospel with a family of non-believers... and they ended up believing and joining our (or a) church? Can you think of some families that God has connected you with that need to hear the Gospel?
3. How could being a family of disciple-makers help our church to become a church of disciple-makers?

SERMON NOTES