

The Road to Transformation - On Mission With the King

INTRO: Amazon is always searching for better and faster ways to deliver products to customers. Never satisfied with the status quo, Amazon has tried several alternatives to UPS and FedEx. The company has asked the Federal Aviation Administration for permission to deliver packages by aerial drones. In November 2014, they were testing cab drivers for delivery in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

We can learn from Amazon's dedication. We need to continually be looking for new and different ways to deliver the gospel in ways that make sense for those that we are trying to reach.

TRAN: The problem for the church that has existed for many years now is that we operate in a "come and see" pattern. "Come and see what is going on at my church." "Come and see this singer, or this speaker." "Come and see this event we are holding at our church."

The problem for "come and see" in this day and age, our culture is drowning in "come and see." There are a hundred other places announcing a come and see message that have more money and greater resources than most churches have. We lose the battle of "come and see" almost every time.

What the church needs to be doing instead of "come and see" is "go and tell." Somewhere along the way the church has become too comfortable with "come and see" and very uncomfortable with "go and tell."

- I. "Come and see" in the Bible is very different than the manner in which the church uses it nowadays
 - A. In the NIV, there are 7 occasions that the Bible uses the exact phrase "come and see"
 - B. Five of the seven are in reference to God, what God has done, or Jesus Christ
 1. We are invited to "come and see what the Lord has done" in Psalm 46:8; 66:5
 2. In Isaiah 66:18 God asks us to "come and see my glory"
 3. When Jesus rose from the dead, the angels told the women at the tomb to "come and see the place where he lay" - speaking of the miracle of Jesus' resurrection
 4. When Philip told Nathaniel about Jesus, he was told by Philip to, "come and see" - speaking of Jesus Himself
 - C. What we are seeing in the Bible is a very different reason for asking people to come and see
 1. The church has used this as a method about its events, or speakers, and such
 2. God uses it to invite people to Himself

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- a) He may show them acts of power
 - b) He may reveal His glory in some way
 - c) It was a miracle of God in one case
 - d) And in one case it was to invite a man to Jesus - literally
- D. Because there is such a great difference in how “come and see” is used in the Bible, we need to take a good look at what we are inviting people to
1. When we invite people to a special music concert at church, if we are honest, we may get some friends to come, but they already have some affinity with God
 - a) Generally, we don’t get many unbelievers to a concert
 - b) Why? Because they have many other options for entertainment for themselves.
 - c) Years ago, while discussing ideas for what the church could do for the summer with Dale Rinke and a few others, the idea of “Worship in the Park” came up
 - (1) I told the group my feelings on the subject
 - (a) We often hold events like worship in the park, labeling it evangelism because we are doing it outside the walls of the church
 - (b) Yet the only people that come are believers
 - (c) We walk away feeling good about ourselves that we proclaimed Jesus in public
 - (d) Yet we never think that the only people that we proclaim Jesus to, are those that are already convinced
 - (2) I think some people didn’t care for my thoughts, but it caused others to pause and think about if we were really meeting objectives
 2. How about a special speaker?
 - a) To be honest, most people are not interested in a special speaker
 - b) Unless it is someone truly famous, or it is a topic of special interest
 - (1) Asking someone to come and see a special missionary speaker at church will only be effective if the missionary is famous, or if the person we invite is interested in Nigerian, Italian, or Turkish culture
 - (2) Please don’t get discouraged about inviting someone though
 - c) We need to understand what the draw is for the person
 - (1) If we think the speaker or the missionary culture is the draw, we will probably be mistaken

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- (2) However, if we simply invite our friend to church, and convey that we care about our friend, that speaks louder than any speaker could
 - (a) So, we have Tom Harmon coming in a few weeks
 - (b) Excellent speaker - great time to invite friends
 - (c) If you hang your invitation on, "Come and see this speaker" chances are high that you may not get your friends to come
 - (d) If you hang your invitation on "Come with me to church. This will be a great time together. I would love for you to hear what Christianity is all about, because Jesus changed my life. The youth are even having a lunch and bake auction after."
 - i) Chances are much higher you will get a positive response because the invitation is hung on your relationship
 - ii) Plus, you have a chance to talk with them personally about their experience after church at the bake auction
- (3) So please don't walk away thinking, "Pastor just said we don't have to invite anyone for when Tom Harmon comes to speak."
 - (a) No, invite them
 - (b) Just do it based on your relationship with them, and your relationship with Christ
- (4) Please, steep the invitation in prayer
 - (a) Everything we do in this church is dependent on Christ
 - (b) So prayer is always the first step for everything
- E. This "come and see" approach that the church has defaulted to gets changed over to a "go and tell" approach when we understand two things
 - 1. Jesus' mission
 - 2. We live as missionaries in our own towns
- II. Most of us understand that Jesus came with a mission
 - A. There are actually six statements in the gospels, termed "I have come" statements, in which Jesus tells us why He came
 - 1. Turn to Luke 4:43 (p. 1031) (Mk 1:38 par) - Jesus came to preach the good news of the kingdom of God
 - a) That word for sent is a particular Greek word
 - b) It is properly translated
 - c) It is the same word we will see over and over
 - 2. Go to Mark 2:17 (p. 1003) - Jesus came to call sinners - the implication is call them to salvation
 - 3. Matthew 5:17 (p. 969) - Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it
 - 4. Matthew 10:34 - Jesus came to bring a sword

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5. Mark 10:45 - Jesus came to give His life as a ransom for many
6. Luke 19:10 - Jesus came to seek and save the lost
- B. Jesus' "I have come" statements form a summary of Jesus' mission
 1. He came to preach and heal, bring salvation, fulfill the law, bring judgment, give His life as a ransom for sinners, and seek and save sinners
 2. All of these paint a pretty clear picture of why Jesus came
 - a) In other words - this was His mission
 - b) He came with a clear purpose on what He was going to accomplish
 3. Sadly, the theme of mission is not one we consider often in Scripture
 - a) Yet it is there for us to see
 - b) It is there for us to take note of, and for more reasons than to just understand what Jesus was up to
- C. Coupled with those statements are Jesus' words about being sent
 1. Mark 9:37 "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."
 2. Matthew 10:40 "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."
 3. So the picture in these and several other verses is painted that Jesus was sent on this mission
- D. I think this is something we often look right past because it is so basic, but to accomplish this mission that Jesus was sent on, He became human
 1. God could have made Jesus' mission to be a loudmouth from heaven
 - a) People, when they go to a certain place on the planet would hear this voice calling to them
 - (1) Sort of like the burning bush in the Bible
 - (2) Or there is a place in CT called Moodus
 - (a) For years, by the noises being heard, people thought there was an underground lightning storm
 - (b) Horrible crashes that resembled thunder could be heard emanating from the mouth of the cave
 - (c) It was named by the Native Americans and the name meant "place of bad noises"
 - (d) Perhaps that is what God might sound like trying to get our attention from heaven?
 - b) Or maybe God would be calling to us at a particular time of life
 - (1) People in their 30's and 40's begin to hear God calling to them
 - (2) Of course in our modern day, these voices would be explained for us by science

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- (1) Either it is delusional
 - (2) Or something combines to fool our senses but it isn't real
 - (3) By the way, that is true of Moodus - the lightning storm really was just earthquakes
2. Most of us realize that God trying to shout from heaven is no way to communicate
- a) On a cold snowy winter's evening the family sat comfortable in their warm house. The husband's wife and kids were dressed for church. She said, "I would love for you to come to church with us. The story of Jesus coming to save us from our sins never gets old."
 - b) He snapped back, "Not for me! I don't believe all that religious garbage!" His wife had, for many years, been trying to tell him about Jesus Christ, the salvation He offers, and how God's Son had become a human being in order to show us the way to heaven." He always felt it was nonsense.
 - c) The mom and kids left for church and the man was all alone in his cozy country house. As he warmed himself by the fireplace an odd site caught his attention outside the window. He noticed three young cats - couldn't have been more than 6 or 8 weeks old walking around out in the snow storm.
 - d) At first he turned and tried to block the foolish cats from his mind. He couldn't shake the thought, "They will freeze for sure! I better see if I can do something - shoo them inside or something." The man put his hat and coat on and opened the door. He felt the cold wintery blast and it sent a shiver down his spine.
 - e) He called out to the cats, "Come here, cats! Get inside where it is warm. I'll get some milk out and some food. You'll die out here in this storm." But it was to no avail. Instead of the cats seeking shelter, his presence scared the cats away. He shouted after them, "Come back! I'm trying to save you! Don't be afraid!" Too late - the cats were gone.
 - f) As he headed back inside he closed the door thinking, "Well I did everything I could. It's not like I'm a cat. But if I were, I could have talked with them, showed them where they could get warm, and get food, and be safe from almost certain death. They would have to believe me then - unless they were complete fools."
 - g) As he removed his coat he could hear in the distance the bells of the church his family went to. Then it hit him - what his wife had been trying to tell him all this time. The only way God could communicate with us was by becoming one of us. Then, only a fool

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would not believe. He knelt weeping by the fire, and prayed his first prayer.

3. The way God communicated with us was by becoming one of us
 - a) He left heaven so we could know and understand what He was like, and what He came for
 - b) And that is what we should do as well
 - c) A Pastor by the name of Walter Hoyer went to jail in April 2009 for standing too close to an Oakland, CA abortion clinic during a protest. The prosecutor gave Hoyer the choice of accepting a stay-away order or two years in jail. Hoyer refused the offer and the judge sentenced him to 30 days in jail.
 - d) Hoyer is not sorry for his choice. In fact, he sometimes wishes he could have stayed in jail longer. "I have been a jail chaplain before, and even had the privilege of being a guest speaker at San Quentin. Being an inmate is completely different. I was actually one of them and it gave me a different kind of credibility."
 - e) Turn to 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (p. 1149)
 - (1) Paul became like the people he wanted to see come to Christ
 - (2) Jesus is the One Paul learned from
 - (a) Jesus literally became like the ones He was trying to save
 - (b) What that means is we need to be in and among those we are trying to reach with the gospel of Jesus Christ
4. This marks the shift from "come and see" to "go and tell"
- E. We have seen that "come and see" is less than effective, and we have seen that Jesus came with a mission, and that mission involved leaving heaven and becoming like those He tried to save
- F. What we need now is to put those ideas together and realize that we are missionaries in our own lives

III. Living missionally

- A. When we realize that Jesus was on a mission, the mission to save people from their sins, to seek and save the lost, to give his life a ransom for many
 1. Then our lives and Christ's commands take on new meaning
 2. Go to Matthew 28:18-20 again (p. 1000)
 - a) At this point, Jesus' mission of giving His life as a ransom for many is completed
 - b) However, His mission to save the lost was not
 - (1) There were still many more lost
 - (2) And over time, the number of lost people kept getting larger
 - c) This is where His commands to His disciples, and to us come in

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- (1) Jesus is adding the disciples into the mission that Jesus has undertaken
 - (2) It is the passing of the baton to those that would carry on
 - (3) As the process goes, the disciples disciple others
 - (4) When they are fully disciplined, then they turn around and disciple even more people
 - (5) It is a constant joining in with Jesus on His mission
 - (a) If you remember: Who Builds the church? (Jesus)
 - (b) What is our role? (Make Disciples)
- B. Sadly, many people that claim Christianity have only been taught that they need to trust Jesus to remove their sins
1. They were never taught they needed to obey all that Jesus commanded
 2. They were never taught about the privilege of joining Jesus on His mission
 3. And so, Jesus' mission suffers because the commitment to Christ has been weakened over time
- C. It is time to call everyone back from this weak form of Christianity and begin to embrace what Jesus has actually called us to - to be on mission with Him sharing the gospel
1. Jesus model for us is to enter into their world
 - a) No more of the "come and see" form of sharing the faith
 - b) It is "go and tell" that we must embrace
 - c) We enter their world and share the gospel with them
 2. Paul is another great model
 - a) Who knows how Paul made a living? - Right, a tentmaker
 - b) He would enter towns, and rather than expect support from the people he was trying to share Jesus with, he would settle down and work in the labor force
 - (1) Paul became one of them
 - (2) How we become one of the ones we are sharing with is unwritten - it is how God will direct us
- D. Near the beginning of the series we used the term - it is called missional living
1. It simply means living like a missionary in the life you live
 2. Your primary focus is sharing Christ as you go through life
 - a) Think about what a missionary does when they arrive in the country they want to share Christ in
 - (1) They settle into a community
 - (2) They establish a job
 - (3) Then they begin building relationships

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- (4) They use those relationships to share Christ
- b) Here is the beauty of missional living - you already live here and you already have a job here
- 3. You know what we have to do to live missional-ly?
 - a) We need to realize that we are part of Jesus' mission
 - (1) The mission that was started 2000 years ago continues and we play a role in that mission!
 - (2) While God CAN save anyone He chooses any time He chooses, God also made another choice - He CHOSE to use His followers to spread the word about Him
 - b) We need to start using the relationships we already have to share Jesus Christ
 - (1) I get this a lot: People in the church speak like they need to get their friend to church so that Pastor can help get them saved
 - (2) I have yet to find in the Bible that we bring people to the foot of Keith to get them saved
 - (3) I have found that we bring them to Jesus
- E. This idea of missional living is not something we tack on to our busy lives, it is our life!
 - 1. Allow me to give you a few suggestions on how to live missional-ly and thus open doors to "go and tell" the gospel rather than "come and see"
 - 2. Make a point of eating with non-Christians
 - a) We all eat - we just have to find a way to include non-Christians
 - (1) Don't eat alone at work, invite a co-worker
 - (2) Invite the neighbors over for a family dinner, or a simple pizza night
 - (3) Then allow the focus to be the conversation
 - b) Be a regular - at places to eat, coffee shops, hair salons, gas stations, etc.
 - (1) Look for moments to share Christ
 - (2) Even if it is something small like, "God Bless your day today!" as you leave. You are building a relationship.
 - c) Enjoy a hobby with a non-Christian friend
 - (1) Do a sport - or teach your sport to others
 - (2) Teach sewing to younger folks, or cooking
 - d) Be intentional with co-workers
 - (1) Pick two or three and pray for them
 - (2) Take breaks with them at work - look for ways to be with them so you can naturally talk about your life as a Christian

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- e) Wherever you participate - look for ways to build stronger relationships with others
 - (1) In organizations you volunteer at - and if you are not, perhaps you should be
 - (a) While I only coached at the school for 3 years, in that time we had several of the kids come and at least check out youth group
 - (b) While only a couple came to Christ, it was a small impact for the kingdom
 - (2) Build stronger relationships with neighbors
- 3. I'll end with this:
 - a) I have recently been working on being more intentional with some of the regular folks I come in contact with as I live life
 - b) While I won't go into details on things because if they should listen to the sermon online, I would not want them to feel odd
 - c) But because I have a regular relationship running with these folks, I have been praying for them, and looking for ways to bring Christ into the conversation
 - d) At the time I am writing this, I have seen God at work in at least one of the relationships, and am praying for more
- F. Jesus has set us on a mission with Him - so we live as if we have a mission
 - 1. I have no doubt that when we live this way, God will flood us with blessings

PRAYER CHALLENGE: Lord, I understand that you came to earth with a mission. Thank you for setting the example. You have passed that mission on to me, and while I may have some fears about the mission, strengthen me and make bold to join you in building your kingdom. Give me the mindset of a missionary as I live my life. In Jesus name, Amen.