The Church Unleashed: Part 2

July 2,2023 | Acts 8:1-4 | Pastor Mike Foster

When "Average Joes" adopt a biblical and awesome view of God and the Church, they are unleashed by faith to fulfill their purpose in God's awesome mission.

- An Awesome View of God – Unleash from "Tiny God Syndrome"
  - God is in control
  - God is with you
  - God is worth it all

- An Awesome View of the Church – Unleash from "Church, Inc."
  - A Church with a mission
  - A Church made to multiply
  - A Church unleashed

- An Awesome View of God's Work in You – Unleash from "McChurch"
  - You are ready
  - You are set
  - You are sent

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read Acts 8:1-4. Try to put yourself in the shoes of those who were scattered. What emotions might they be feeling? What plans might they be making? What fears might they have? What hopes might they have?
3. What do you think it means when Luke tells us the refugees "preached the word wherever they went"? What might this have looked like?
4. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What do you observe about the nature of the church in these verses? Why is it important to recognize the church is an organism and not just an organization? What are some implications of such a view of the church?
5. Read Matthew 28:19-20. Share how you became a disciple of Jesus. Who led you to Christ? Who discipled you? What did this look like?
6. Is there a difference between the "activity of ministry" and the "productivity of disciple-making"? Explain how these two things might be different?
7. Do you think of yourself more as a "fruit" or as a "seed"? Why is it important to remember that you are both?
8. Read 2 Timothy 2:2. Is there someone you are investing in to help follow Jesus? How might you identify someone? What might it look like for you to begin to invest in such a person?
9. How might a person or ministry evaluate how effectively they are making disciples?
10. Spend some time reading the above article "Learning to Make Disciples of Jesus" and discuss what stands out to you in that article.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 24:45-49, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Timothy 2:2
Memorize Acts 8:4
Listen to "If We are the Body" – https://bit.ly/wearethebody
Listen to "The Church's One Foundation" – https://bit.ly/churchfoundation
Read "Spiritual Multiplication" – https://bit.ly/spiritmulti
Read "Learning to Make Disciples of Jesus: The Calling of Every Believer" – https://bit.ly/learndisciples
Find resources for sharing and multiplying your faith at www.evantell.org and www.dare2share.org
Read *Transforming Discipleship* by Greg Ogde