

## **The God Who Sends**

*John 20:21-23*

### **Introduction**

As we kickoff Mission Month this morning, we are going to begin our study with a look at the theological foundation of the work of missions. And here is what we are going to find:

Our participation in the work of missions is inextricably related to God's mission in the world.

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### **John 20:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

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### **Exposition**

#### **I. The Work of the Father (V. 21a)**

As Timothy Tennent stated, "Missions is ultimately the work of the **triune God**, initiated by God the Father for His eternal glory." As we can see from all other the Scriptures, our God is a sending God (Rom. 8:3; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 4:9)

#### **II. The Work of the Son (V. 21b)**

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom of God and performed works that pointed to the inbreaking of God's kingdom power in the world. Jesus, as Timothy Tennent put it, is the "embodiment of the mission of God."

For us, this means that we both preach words and perform works that point people to the reign and rule of God through Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We bring good news as those sent by Jesus Himself!

#### **III. The Work of the Holy Spirit (Vv. 22)**

The Holy Spirit empowers the work of the Mission of God.

For us, this means that we carry out the mission of God in the strength and power that God the Holy Spirit provides for us.

### **Conclusion**

The work of missions is ultimately the work of God that we participate in as those sent by Him for His glory and the good of the world.

How do missions do good to the world? When we are following Jesus, we are not only caring for physical and social needs, most importantly, we are offering forgiveness to everyone who would believe in Jesus.