

FROM BETHLEHEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Sermon Notes | 12.28.25

Big Idea: The same God who came to us in Bethlehem now sends us to the world around us.

Central Question: If the King of Heaven came to earth for them, will we go to them for Him?

1 . THE MISSION WAS ALWAYS GLOBAL

Key Scriptures: Luke 2:8-14 | Matthew 2:1-12 | Luke 2:29-32

The Unchanging Invitation:

- The Shepherds → outcasts invited
- The Magi → seekers led
- Simeon's Prophecy → light to all nations

The Point: If God made room for the unlikely and unqualified to witness baby Jesus, He's making room at your table, your workplace, your neighborhood for people you think would never come.

Quote - Timothy Keller: "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

Scripture: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 28:19

2 . ENCOUNTER MUST PRECEDE MISSION

Key Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah's Pattern: Vision → Conviction → Cleansing → Commission

Why We Resist: __ "They don't deserve it" __ "I'm not qualified" __ "What if they reject me?"
__ "I don't want the mess"

Truth: God qualifies the called. Some of us need healing before we can reach others.

Quote - John Bevere: "God's calling is not a suggestion; it's a command wrapped in grace."

Scripture: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." - Matthew 11:28

3 . WORSHIP FUELS MISSION

Key Scriptures: Matthew 2:11 | John 15:5 | Acts 1:4-5, 8

The Order: Journey → Encounter → _____ → Mission

Key Truth: Apart from Jesus, you can do nothing. Mission flows from abiding with Him.

The 21 Days (January 6-26): Positioning yourself to hear, be filled, and be sent. Mission becomes natural, not obligation.

Quote - Steffany Gretzinger: "You can only lead people where you've been."

Scripture: "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." - John 15:4

4 . SIMPLE OBEDIENCE IS THE STARTING LINE

Key Scriptures: Matthew 28:18-20 | Acts 2:42-47

The Command: Make disciples as you go (work, school, neighborhood)

Early Church Pattern:

- House to house | Daily rhythms | Shared meals | God saves, we share

Truth: Evangelism isn't an event; it's a lifestyle.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Between now and January 5, pray daily: "God, who is my Nineveh? Who is my one?"

My One Person: _____

__ I'm committing to pray for this person daily

Simple Next Steps:

- Invite them to coffee
- Ask about their life
- Share your story
- Pray for an open door

Start Date: January 6, 2026

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Who are the unlikely people God might be inviting to encounter Jesus through you?
2. What's your primary resistance to going? (judgment | insecurity | fear | self-protection)
3. How full is your spiritual tank right now?
4. Who is your one, and what's one step you can take this week?
5. What does shifting from spectator to participant look like for you?

Quote - Priscilla Shirer: "Don't let your limitations become your excuses. Moses had a speech impediment, David was too young, Esther was an orphan. God specializes in using the unlikely to do the impossible."

CONNECT WITH US

Grace Community Church | Auburn, WA 98002

21 Days of Prayer: January 6-26 [Join the prayer guide at graceinauburn.com]

Next Steps:

- Sign up for the 21 Days of Prayer
- Visit the connect Desk
- Learn more about our Grace Path Class
- Learn more about joining a Life Group