

Today's Message: "The Ripple Effect"

¹"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7, ESV)

The world was anything but 'all is calm and all is bright.'

⁹"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10, ESV)

²⁵ "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:25-29, ESV)

Unsure – "You currently do not believe or trust in God."

Believer – "You believe, but do you trust God?"

Disciple – "You both believe and fully trust God."

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- [shama] – To hear and **understand**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5, ESV)

¹⁸ “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20, ESV)

- That is His Plan A and there was no Plan B.
- It is called the Great Commission but too many Christians view it as merely a suggestion.

Book Recommendation: “Who Is This Man” by John Ortberg

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever shared your faith with someone who doesn't believe in Jesus? How did it feel?
2. Read Matthew 28:16-20
3. What does it mean to make disciples? Practically, how are you doing this? If you feel like you aren't currently a disciple-maker, what are some steps you can take to join in Jesus' Great Commission?
4. How has Jesus made an impact on your life? Share the story of how you came to follow Him. How does following Him cause you to impact the world around you?

Text **NORTHWAY** to **42828** to receive additional small group questions and daily devotional content throughout this series.

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