



First Baptist Church

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Whatever You Do, Do All to the Glory of God

Letter from Pastor – March 2024

The bedroom of my eight-year-old son, Devin, is a DISASTER area. I cannot walk into it without stepping on clothes and toys so I refuse to enter it at all. This, in addition to living into my promise to him about six months ago that I would not help him clean his room again, led to a massive breakdown by my son last weekend stemming from his sense that the mess was too big for him to tackle.

As I stood in the doorway listening to this, I asked him if I could offer some advice as to how he could proceed. Having faced similar messes in my life, I explained, I have started at one side of the room and simply worked my way in a circle. The mess didn't seem so massive when I just looked at what was in front of me.

Since August, our sermon series have focused on what could easily be perceived as the monumental task of "embodying the Kingdom of God." Taking on this mission may, for some, make us feel overwhelmed. We too may ask: "Where do we even start?"

It is my conviction that when God calls a people to join Him in His work, He begins to lay the foundation for that work to be fulfilled. Consider for a moment what God says to Abraham when He calls him. In Genesis 12:1-3 God says :

Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

God was going to use Abraham and his family to bless ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH. Talk about a HUGE task. To accomplish that goal, God would make the patriarch's descendants into a nation. Notice that God already limited how the goal would be accomplished. The first step in achieving that goal: Go to the land God was already preparing for them.

God didn't send Abraham into the whole world (that would come later with Christ.) Instead, He sent him to a very specific land. Throughout the Bible, our Lord guided Abraham and his descendants each step of the way so that they could claim that land and the promises associated with it.

Like Abraham, God has a plan for FBC. God has given our church a "land" to claim as His kingdom. Our job is to discern what that "land" looks like. Is it our HeadStart families? How about our neighbors at Plymouth or Northeast? Is it the community surrounding our church building? Answering this question can help us with a renewed sense of purpose and vision.

To help guide some discussions around this idea, April 7 we will be starting a new sermon series entitled "Bringing the Kingdom Home." Throughout this series, which will end with the Take Note Musical on May 12 (Mother's Day), we will look at the issues God's people had in discerning God's will for "conquering" the land He had given them. Hopefully these stories will challenge us as we learn from the experience of those who have walked this way before us.

~Rev. Lara Freeburg