

**July 2, 2017**

**Sent**

We Christians are the “sent ones” and we have been sent into our worlds — our workplaces, our neighborhoods — to alert others to the reign of God. It’s our role as instruments in God’s hands to bring tastes of wholeness, justice, beauty and reconciliation, and to let others know these will fully flower in the return of Christ. In ‘Surprise the World’, Michael Frost recommends we journal all the ways God has sent us to be a sign, foretaste and instrument of God’s kingdom.

This is about reshaping our identities around our fundamental calling as the ‘sent ones’ of God. By fostering the habit of briefly journaling the various ways (large and small) you alert others to God’s reign of reconciliation, justice, beauty and wholeness, you will find yourself increasingly identifying yourself as a SENT one of God.

**Text: 2 Corinthians 5:13-21**

*The energy to get up and go on as a Christian, as one who works for the gospel, therefore, comes not from a cold sense of duty, not from a fear of being punished if you don’t do your bit, but from the warm-hearted response of love to the Love which has reached out, reached down, and reached you. It may, of course, make you do things in ways that surprise or even shock other people. The gospels are full of that sort of thing; so is the story of Paul’s life. But, as he now goes on to say, if a new world has come to birth, you wouldn’t expect it to look exactly like the old one, would you (N.T. Wright, 2004)?*

**Next week:** *Surprise the World continues!*

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What comes to your mind when someone says ‘mission field’? Is that expanding or changing?

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We — as the body of Christ — serve as a sign, foretaste and instrument of the kingdom.

**Sign:** We point people to a reality that is right around the corner—the Kingship of Jesus and His soon return.

**Foretaste:** Like a movie trailer, the church is where people get a taste of the future in the present. We demonstrate what life is like when women and men live under the rule and reign of God in the power of the Spirit.

**Instrument:** The church is a tool in the hands of God to help shape God’s preferred future for the world.

***For further study, read Matthew 28:16-20***

As we go... Jesus calls us to make disciples—of all people in all places. In the midst of our everyday lives, the Lord desires for us to demonstrate our trust in Him and the ongoing transformation of our hearts and lives. What does the word ‘disciple’ mean to you?

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