



VINTAGE**CHURCH**

Advance 2018

January Series

January 7 - February 3, 2018

SERIES INTRO

Our first major piece of Advance 2018 is Compassion International Sunday, and we're expecting God to move in amazing ways as we respond to the mission he has given us to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) Through the month of January we'll be looking at four Gospel passages that help us better understand that mission.

First we'll read John 1:14-18 in which John explains why Jesus came to dwell with us. We'll see that Jesus himself is the mission of God, and that he sends us out likewise. Next we'll hear about the Parable of the Talents, in which Jesus teaches that we've been entrusted with great things on this mission and that God has expectations of our faithfulness with those things.

On January 21 we'll celebrate Compassion International Sunday. Compassion International is an organization that helps children escape poverty in Jesus' name, and we've partnered with them to help children in Codó, Brazil, alongside church planting efforts there.

January 19-21 we'll have a Compassion Experience truck at Vintage Downtown, which houses an interactive mobile exhibit that shows what life is like for a child in poverty. You can find out more about Compassion International, the Compassion Experience, and how to volunteer with the exhibit by going to our homepage (vintagenc.com).

That Sunday we'll hear from Tyler about the Parable of the Good Samaritan. We'll see that the Church's mission is a holistic approach towards others, and we'll have a tangible way to "go and make disciples" that Sunday through Compassion. Our prayer is that individuals and families at Vintage would prayerfully consider ahead of time and commit to sponsor children in Codó, and that we would rescue 500 children by the end of the day. By sponsoring these children we can ensure that they hear the gospel in influential and tangible ways that extend beyond them to their families and communities.

The week following Compassion International Sunday we'll look at the Great Commission and how we can make disciples in all our spheres of influence. This is our hope for Advance 2018, that we would listen to Jesus' call to go make disciples, that we would trust that Jesus is with us always, and that God would empower his mission through us for the sake of his name.



1. Jesus Is the Mission - John 1:14-18

January 7

You could spend eons mining the depths of John 1:1-18; the miracle of the incarnation alone will take you a lifetime. In v.14-18, which we'll be studying this week, John expounds on the wonder of the incarnation, explaining that Jesus came to be with us, bringing grace and the light of revelation with him. We see in Jesus the tangible nature of God's mission, his intent for mankind: to bring us himself. Verse 14 says Jesus came to live among the lost; verse 18 explains that Jesus made God known to us. This reveals a multitude of things about God, like his love and mercy, and about us, like our need for rescue.

This section also reveals how we're meant to follow Jesus. We too are called to the lost, to live among them and reveal to them who God says he is through his word. Plus, we get to testify to the grace God has given us through his Son, grace that's available to the lost. With the Holy Spirit at work in us we get to continue God's mission to bring us himself.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY

Please find time this week or next week to talk about Compassion International Sunday. You could ask if anyone is already considering sponsoring a child or if anyone has prior experience with Compassion International. If you or the folks in your group have any questions you can find more info on our homepage or email Eric (eric.spivey@vintagenc.com).

Discussion

- **Could someone read John 1:14-18 for us?**
- What stood out to you from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal about why Jesus came?
- What are some things this passage tells us about ourselves?
- What feelings does this passage stir up in you?
- How does this passage help us understand what it means to follow Jesus?



2. Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14–30

January 14

Jesus isn't playing around when he tells this parable. It's a serious take on the expectations God has for faithful living among his children. As grim as it sounds at parts (e.g "weeping and gnashing of teeth") we need to read this in light of the grace we talked about last week. We know that God is "abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 145:8) So what is Jesus trying to say here?

Mirroring the "talents" in this passage, God has blessed believers with skills, resources, and, most importantly, his word coupled with his Spirit. He wasn't required to give us any of that, but he did because he's kind. And note that the master in the parable doesn't expect the same thing from everyone. Each of the first two servants produces a different amount, and he's pleased with both of them. He even says he would've been pleased with the third servant had he just put the money in a savings account! Jesus is explaining that God gives us good gifts for a specific purpose, not to produce a specific amount or be an all-star, but to just faithfully use them.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY

If you haven't already, please find time to talk about Compassion International Sunday. If folks are still on the fence, encourage them to attend the Compassion Experience Jan. 19–21.

Discussion

- **Could someone read Matthew 25:14–30 for us?**
- What are some of the metaphors in this passage?
- What overall tone do you hear in this passage?
- What are some of the things Jesus was trying to convey with this story?
- Does this passage produce any tension in you? If so, what?
- Given the grace we have in Jesus, how does this passage lead us to respond?

Would you close by praying for Compassion International Sunday, that it goes well and that Jesus would make his name known in Codó?



3. Compassion International Sunday - Luke 10:30-37

January 21

It's pretty clear that the lawyer in Luke 10:25 wanted Jesus to say anything other than what he did. The lawyer was looking for an out, an excuse to treat some people differently than others. As a rebuttal to these motives Jesus told the iconic parable about the Good Samaritan.

Jesus uses this parable to define the spirit in which he sends his people into the world. We're called to be compassionate, to care for others in drastic, counter-cultural ways. Our mission to "go therefore and make disciples" is intended to be a holistic mission of compassion. As we read this passage, we should reflect on our own motives that mirror that of the lawyer's, repenting of our hard hearts and asking God to heal us. Simultaneously we can rejoice that Jesus himself was the Good Samaritan to us, having compassion on us and equipping us to care for others likewise.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY

Please take a moment to reflect on Compassion International Sunday and share about the children that folks in your group are now sponsoring. Take time to pray over these children, that God would use our resources to bring them into the Kingdom and change their lives.

Discussion

- **Could someone read Luke 10:25-37 for us?**
- What do you think the lawyer's motives were?
- What are the implications here about how we should treat other people?
- Why do you think this teaching was important to Jesus?
- What things stand in the way of you "going and doing likewise"?
- What practical things can you do right now to "go and do likewise"?



4. Great Commission - Matthew 28:16-20

January 28

We'll wrap up our January series by looking at the Great Commission. For the past three weeks we've been looking at the mission Jesus gave us as his followers. This week we'll see that all boiled down to one thing: "go therefore and make disciples."

As Christians our only mission is the Great Commission. In Matthew 28 we see things we've been tasked with, like baptizing people and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus has said, and things we've been promised, like Jesus' ultimate control and ongoing presence. The Great Commission directs us to make disciples in all our spheres of influence, from our neighborhoods, to the Triangle, to Codó, Brazil, and to the ends of the earth. This is our hope for Advance 2018, that we would listen to Jesus' call to go make disciples, that we would trust that Jesus is with us always, and that God would empower his mission through us for the sake of his name.

Discussion

- **Could someone read Matthew 28:16-20 for us?**
- What do you think it was like for the disciples to be with Jesus on the mountain?
- Why do you think Jesus gave this mission to his disciples?
- Why do you think Jesus mentioned that he would still be with them?
- What is this passage telling you specifically to go do?
- How can we make a daily commitment to responding to Jesus' call here?

