

*The truth about pioneering is it will always be connected to/affected by place & people.*

## **I. THE NEED FOR DIRECTION**

A. Question often asked: *How do pioneers figure out where to go?*

1. NC have asked: Does the pastor just figure it out – and surprises them at conference
2. Many disciples don't know if they have a say in the process, OR what are the considerations involved

B. Our scrip: Jesus is giving His disciples instructions on who to minister to

1. *Matthew 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.*
  - a. This was specific to that moment in church history – the gospel was given first to the Jews
2. Obviously doesn't apply to us today, but there are principles that can be gleaned that are helpful
  - a. Jesus was directing them to be effective in their ministry b. He was giving them some practical guidelines about people and location

## **II. PRACTICAL DIRECTION**

A. **Physical location:** There are considerations when choosing a church building:

1. **Visibility:** *Can people find you?* Is the building visible or is there signage from the main street
  - a. *Will they let you put banners, sandwich boards for events?*

2. **Accessibility:** *Is it easy to get to? Not: over the river and through the woods...*
  - a. *Three interior doors and up the elevator/down a hallway...*
  1. *China: Churches generally located near subway stops – that is how most people travel there*
  - b. Must consider travel for your people: Mass transit in big cities, travel times during rush hour

3. **Acceptability:** *Is the building well lit, look safe or scary at night? (Look at the building at night!!)*
  - a. *Are Addicts sleeping on step all weekend? b. Prostitutes hanging around? c. Gangsters*
  1. Families/women may avoid or be turned off

B. **People groups**

1. *V6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel:* These were the ones most likely to respond at that time
  - a. We target cities/neighborhoods for the sake of effectiveness – long-term growth potential
2. Historically had success with: Working class, ethnic minorities, young families/single, military
  - a. We believe all people can be reached/saved: We build a base from the 'most-likely' to reach the rest
3. Church location ideally located at borders: *Where different groups/neighborhoods meet*
  - a. Not a 'ghetto' church or 'rich' church: a place where people from all walks feel comfortable coming

C. **Distance**

1. Jesus' disciples didn't go preaching 1<sup>st</sup> to the ends of the earth – started with the closest people groups
  - a. *PM used the 'crabgrass' analogy of fellowship growth – we inch across the ground – have covered the globe!*
2. Wisdom in planting within reasonable distance of others:
  - a. *JH wanted to go to remote town/WA, I advised him to go where he could get help*
    1. Impact teams, fellowship, revivals – great assets to a pioneer pastor

## **III. INSPIRATION**

A. In our scrip. Jesus didn't tell them exactly where to go

1. *Mt 10:5-6 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*
  - a. Sent them out, don't go to Gentiles/Samaritans, lost sheep of Israel – rest is up to you!
2. We don't have a master map – which cities are next – who goes where – next phase of the operation!
  - a. Pastor offers practical direction and guidance, but also trust the man to get ahold of God
3. Direction is based on: Need, the man himself, financial considerations, burden on pastor's heart

B. **Practical inspiration**

1. Men going into larger cities often wonder where to begin (easier to figure out in a one-horse town)
  - a. **My advice: Go fishing!** Start witnessing in public places and trust God to guide you by response
    1. **One:** Maybe certain places will be more fruitful than others – you will get a witness in your spirit about the location
    2. **Two:** Maybe begin praying with people, but they're all from certain part/city – that's a good sign!

2. We are involved in God's work – we can trust Him to guide us in the practical issues

C. **Praying for inspiration: Men who want to preach need a burden: Ask God for one!**

1. Begin praying about cities and nations, ask God to give you a burden for people and places
  - a. Sometimes that bears very specific fruit: God stirs you for a place and you end up there one day
  - b. Sometimes merely tenderizes your heart: You become attuned to the great need of people on earth
2. **Point NOT having laser-focused burden for one apartment block in one city, in one language!**
  - a. Point is that we would have a burden – and God can begin to guide us where He needs us