

## Calling and Sending #4

# We have People, we are Sent, We are Called

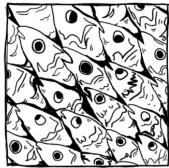
Eric Cepin

8-23-26

You Have  
People.  
You Have  
Places.  
You Are Sent.



You can see this finger pointing at you: You have people, places, and you are sent. This is not complicated! I want you to understand this principle today.



We are wrapping up a series called **Calling and Sending** in preparation for our Belonging Day. If this is your spiritual home and you want to grow more, we invite you to sign the covenant and be a part of a **SENT PEOPLE**.



19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples **were together**, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace be with you!**" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "**Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

This is the resurrection story from **John 20** where Jesus has a dramatic encounter with Mary. In **verse 19**, we find the disciples in a room together. If you are a follower of Jesus, your basic identity is as a sent person and a member of a sent people. We see this throughout Scripture. If you are not, then you are sitting among a bunch of people who are sent to YOU!

What I Thought Mission Was

- Far away.
- Shame.
- Different language.
- Guilt.



I grew up in a church where missions was a big deal. On this slide, you can see the things I once thought about missionaries. For example, I thought they were **far away**. I once heard a story about a woman crying by a river and someone tells her about Jesus and she sobs more because the missionary didn't come earlier and also save her son as well. As a 6 year old, I thought other people's salvation depended on me. I didn't want to go far away. I also thought you had to speak another language and I had a hard time learning other languages, so I felt shame,

guilt, and responsibility for other people's salvation. Clearly, I had to wade through a lot of stuff to grasp the idea of "SENT."

Jesus sees people and they feel known, as Mark talked about last week. We are also invited into **listening** well to people which can actually transform them! Also, Jesus first sends us toward one another: we need to focus on one another, be willing to be **dependent** on one another (we aren't projects!), we need to be **hospitable** and people of **peace**.

#### Peace Before Sending

- John 20:19–22
- Afraid. Locked doors.
- Jesus comes near.
- “Peace be with you.”
- “As the Father sent me, I send you.”
- “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Today I want to focus on what it looks like for **YOU** to be a **MISSIONARY**. First, we need to understand PEACE comes before sending. Back to the John 19 passage: the disciples are scared and Jesus shows up and says “Peace be with you.” Then he sends them and equips them (with the Holy Spirit). When you think of being sent, you do not have to get it all together to be sent: You can be a terrified person in a locked room! But you have this to give them: PEACE. You take PEACE to others.

#### Identity Before Action

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood**, a **holy nation**, **God's special possession**, **that** you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



Next, you must know who you are. 1 Peter 2:9 says that **identity happens before action**. This is important: first you are God's special possession. You see children carry their special possessions around and they get terrified when they lose something. This is how God is with you: you are **holy** and part of a **royal priesthood** and **chosen**. Peter thinks of this differently than you do: You're God's special possession because you belong to a community of God's special people, a royal priesthood. It's not just you isolated; you are connected to a group of people. This makes it much easier to be SENT.

### You Have People!

#### Who already shows up in your life?

- Neighbors.
- Coworkers.
- Friends.
- Family.
- Parents.
- Regulars.

First, you go in Peace. Next, you hold onto who you are as a sent person. Let's go back to the opening slide: **you have people!**

#### You Have People!

- Categories to names.
- Who keeps showing up in your ordinary life?
- Who already knows you?
- Who has shared part of their story with you?
- One person at a time.



Let's categorize these people you are sent to (See List below). Take possession of these: I want you to think in terms of these categories. But let's move these categories to NAMES.

Who is in your ordinary life? These are your people: name them. Who knows YOUR name? In these larger categories, Who has been vulnerable with you? We offer Jesus to one person at a time within OUR CAPACITY. The beauty is that we are sent to

one person at a time.

## See and Listen to Your People

- Notice them.
- Remember their story.
- Ask again.
- Stay curious.

Here are some ways to **engage** your people: When someone tells you something, you can even ask your phone to remind you of that next week. Make some effort to remember what people say to you. Be Jesus to them: having someone care about you is powerful.

### You Have Places!

Where does your life already happen?

Work. Neighborhood. School.  
Coffee shop. Gym. Field.  
Table.

**You are already somewhere.**



You also have **places**: Where does your life already happen? God makes your borders: consider where you are already! You are sent to the people and to the places.

## Live as God's People Here! – Jeremiah 29:4-7

4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into **exile** from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 **“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”**

Here is an example of being in a place. You are also an **exile** like the Israelites. You don't belong here and the Jeremiah message is good for us as well: we can settle here and plant gardens and engage the place where we live.

### Cultivate your Spaces

Cultivate

Ask: is this place better because I am here?

Bring stability, generosity, attention.

Receive from people.

We cultivate spaces: **Ask is this place better because I'm here?**

Am I actually receiving from the people there? God tells them in Jeremiah to receive and be a part of them.

## I Belong To Jesus Here!

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, **that** you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.



We must go back to I Peter to understand this cultivation process: When we are sent, we must know who we belong to. We are a person who declares the praises of the One who calls us out. We abstain from sinful desires which we do by declaring we belong to Jesus.

## I Belong to Jesus Here - 1 Peter 2:11-12

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your **good deeds** and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

We don't participate in the sin around us but we live a life of good deeds and actions around us. This causes people to notice us; we are living like the king! And they are grateful for us.

### Naming Jesus

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Declare | Declare his praises.               |
| Live    | Live among people.                 |
| Let     | Let life and words point together. |



Here are some ways to name Jesus: Give Him credit when good things happen. Live among them people, not isolated. Be one of them: have friends. Let life and your words line up together. Identify when others line up with Jesus: "I love what you did! That is just like Jesus."

### Live Sent

- You have people. You have places. You are sent.
- Who are your people? Where are your places?
- Name two or three people and one or two places.



Here is the big picture: You have people (categories), you know you are sent to these people. I want you to walk out of here, go with a couple of names in mind.

### Live Sent:

- John 20: Jesus sends us.
- 1 Peter 2: Peter reminds us of our identity.
- Jeremiah 29: Invites us to live faithfully where we are.

Jesus sent his disciples out with the knowledge of being sent with a major identity (you are deeply cared about and special) and to live faithfully wherever we are.

You Have People.  
You Have Places.  
You Are Sent.



Here is the same slide minus the finger pointing to you. But the reality is that you are sent to people and places but you are not alone.

We Have People.  
We Have Places.  
We Are Sent.



We do this together: Our sent identity is because you belong to God's people. We are not sent alone.

I want you to hold onto this simple thing.