



Your story matters.



MYRC.CHURCH



“JOIN JESUS’ MISSION”

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

The average life span of a church in MN is about ____ years old.

Note [Luke 19:10](#) and [John 3:16](#)

Since ____% of evangelical churches (and higher % of mainline churches) are either _____ or declining, God has without a doubt helped Riverside these past nearly 18 years be on a road less traveled.

...Jesus has told us that _____ human being (including you and me) are all on a road trip, so to speak; but the road we choose to travel on will make all the _____ in this life and eternity (note [Matthew 7:13-14](#)).

Note [John 15:8, 16](#)

1. What is the _____ Jesus Talks About in John 15?

Fruit/Fruitful is used ____ times in the New Testament...____ of 66 times in New Testament used _____

- A. Fruit of _____ (note [Matthew 13:23](#)).
- B. Fruit of _____ (note [John 4:35-36](#)) - in John 15:8, Jesus is talking to His disciples who had already _____ to Jesus as Lord. Note [John 15:1](#); [Matthew 4:19](#); [John 15:16](#); [Matthew 28:19a](#). The road less traveled Jesus tells us to travel on has reaching _____ people as a primary mile marker (note [Proverbs 11:30](#)).

2. Why is Something So Clear...

...so hard to find among so many churches and so many Jesus followers?

- Jesus' mission was clearly spelled out even before His _____ (note [Matthew 1:21](#)).
- Jesus was _____ about His mission (note [John 3:17](#); [12:27](#)).
- The _____ of the New Testament is clear about Jesus' mission (note [1 Timothy 1:15](#); [1 John 2:2](#)).
- And Jesus was clear that His followers were to have as their _____ the completion of His mission (note [Mark 16:15](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [Matthew 24:14](#)).

The problem isn't lack of _____ or information.

The problem is...that the _____ inclination of any organization is to become inward-focused.

This was true for Jesus' _____ disciples (note [Luke 9:46](#); [Acts 1:6](#)).

Being outward-focused isn't our _____ setting...but being outward-focused is God's _____ perspective and passion in our _____ by His Spirit (note the changes from [Acts 1:6](#) to [Acts 2:41](#)).

Am I on the road less traveled?:

- When God started this church 90 years ago, He made sure to _____ this DNA of outward-focus into Riverside's foundation.
- ...on our 90th birthday, Riverside is reaching more lost people than ever before...and there are _____ lost people to reach than ever before..
- Lost people matter to God; He wants them found. And they need to matter _____.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).*

**[MyRC.link/connect](#) or text *riverside* to 94000*



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Icebreaker: My favorite summer family tradition is...
Or, one summer family tradition I'd like to start is...

1. How does Jesus' mission to reach lost people ([Luke 19:10](#), [John 3:16](#)) get you excited about what God has been doing at Riverside Church?
2. In John 15, Jesus talks about bearing fruit...of reaching lost people. ([John 15:8, 16](#)) How has this looked in your life? How would you like it to look?
3. Let's take another look at what scripture has to say about Jesus' mission on earth.
 - a. [Matthew 1:21](#) (Even before Jesus' birth)
 - b. [John 3:17; 12:27](#) (Jesus' own teaching)
 - c. [1 Timothy 1:15, 1 John 2:2](#) (The New Testament agrees)
 - d. [Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:13-15](#) (We have a role to play)
 - e. How do you fit in?
4. Being outward focused isn't our default setting, but it is still the heart of God for the world. How are we able to live this out? ([Acts 1:8](#)) Is today your day to surrender completely to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to empower you to live the life you were designed for?
5. Pastor Tom said "Lost people matter to God. He wants them found. And they need to matter to us." Who has God put in your life that still needs to be found? If you're honest, are you acting like they matter to you?

Day One: [Psalm 4](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 4](#)

Day Three: [Joshua 4](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 4](#)

Day Five: [Acts 4](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from
Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

PERSONAL GUIDE



"JOIN JESUS' MISSION"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

The average life span of a church in MN is about 70 years old.

Note [Luke 19:10](#) and [John 3:16](#)

Since 80% of evangelical churches (and higher % of mainline churches) are either plateaued or declining, God has without a doubt helped Riverside these past nearly 18 years be on a road less traveled.

...Jesus has told us that every human being (including you and me) are all on a road trip, so to speak; but the road we choose to travel on will make all the difference in this life and eternity (note [Matthew 7:13-14](#)).

Note [John 15:8, 16](#)

1. What is the Fruit Jesus Talks About in John 15?

Fruit/Fruitful is used 66 times in the New Testament...41 of 66 times in New Testament used figuratively...

- A. Fruit of Salvation (note [Matthew 13:23](#)).
- B. Fruit of Evangelism (note [John 4:35-36](#)) - in John 15:8, Jesus is talking to His disciples who had already said Yes to Jesus as Lord. Note [John 15:1](#); [Matthew 4:19](#); [John 15:16](#); [Matthew 28:19a](#). The road less traveled Jesus tells us to travel on has reaching lost people as a primary mile marker (note [Proverbs 11:30](#)).

2. Why is Something So Clear...

...so hard to find among so many churches and so many Jesus followers?

- Jesus' mission was clearly spelled out even before His birth (note [Matthew 1:21](#)).
- Jesus was clear about His mission (note [John 3:17](#); [12:27](#)).
- The rest of the New Testament is clear about Jesus' mission (note [1 Timothy 1:15](#); [1 John 2:2](#)).
- And Jesus was clear that His followers were to have as their #1 priority the completion of His mission (note Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Matthew 24:14).

The problem isn't lack of clarity or information.

The problem is...that the natural inclination of any organization is to become inward-focused.

This was true for Jesus' own disciples (note [Luke 9:46](#); [Acts 1:6](#)).

Being outward-focused isn't our default setting...but being outward-focused is God's default setting, and He can establish this perspective and passion in our hearts by His Spirit (note the changes from [Acts 1:6](#) to [Acts 2:41](#)).

Am I on the road less traveled?:

- When God started this church 90 years ago, He made sure to engrave this DNA of outward-focus into Riverside's foundation.
- ...on our 90th birthday, Riverside is reaching more lost people than ever before...and there are more lost people to reach than ever before...
- Lost people matter to God; He wants them found. And they need to matter to us.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital or in person).*

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