

# A VISION FOR EVERYONE

## **Matthew 28.16-20**

Sometimes life shifts, not in a gradual way but in tectonic jolts. Life as we know it is forever changed because reality as we know it has changed. Marriage is such a shift. Suddenly, you find your life joined with the life of another. Life as you know it has ended and a new life has begun. Having kids is another such shift. I will never forget holding Addison and thinking that life would never again be the same. Life as Rachel and I knew it had forever changed.

Sometimes life shifts and the rumblings and implications spill over into every area of our life, reshaping and redirecting our life course and purpose. This was the experience of the first disciples. Jesus rose from the dead with power over all reality and met those men on a mountain in Galilee. The one who conquered death, in love and with mercy, drew to himself those that had abandoned him giving to them the ministry he had begun. Life could never be the same. Rather than moving through life just trying to get by, those first disciples of Jesus found themselves called to a new way of being, a life infused with the life, mission, and power of Jesus. Is it any wonder that those eleven men turned the known world upside down? Their lives had experienced a tectonic jolt that spilled over, reshaping and redirecting them leading them to give their lives carrying out what Jesus had begun.

I spent some time today thinking about what it must have been like to be one of those first disciples. I imagine the fear and awe, the tension between belief and disbelief. I can see them grappling with a new reality and the implications that go with it. If I had been there with them, I too would have had my world turned upside down. There would be no way I could do anything but give my life to carrying out what Jesus had begun, living a life infused with the life, mission, and power of Jesus. But that was then. This is now. When I look at my own life, I wonder if how they lived, how their lives changed should have any bearing on my own. I didn't stand on that mountain. I didn't hear those words. So, should my life change like theirs? When I take a hard look at my own life my actions say what my words do not, revealing what I truly believe. Should it be this way? Is their experience really that different from my own? Have I not encountered the same resurrected Christ as they? Have I not, like those men, joined my life with Christ's? Does not his life and power flow through mine? Am I not part of the same Kingdom movement that Jesus began, that same movement those men gave their lives to carry forth? I know the answer to these questions. I wrestle with the following. How is it that my life, my calling, my own reality has not fully shifted like theirs? What will it take for me to live fully in light of the reality of Christ's own resurrected life? Perhaps it begins with the recognition that his vision is a vision for everyone. Even me.

A fellow traveler,

Blake  
Spiritual Formation Pastor

## My Next Step

We encourage you to consider doing the following as a way of handing off faith to your family. . .

- **Life with Jesus:** Jesus invites us to share in his life, to have his vision and ministry become our own. Often, our inability to live as Jesus lived is rooted in a failure to recognize that he is with us, sharing his power with us. As a family, consider taking steps to remind yourselves that Jesus is always with you. You might consider adding a place setting at your evening meals as a visual reminder that Jesus is with you. Or, you might consider purchasing a piece of art that has the words of Matthew 28.18-20 on it for display in your home. Be creative with how you might surround your life with reminders that Jesus is with us, sharing his life with us so that we might live out his life and vision as our own.

We encourage you to consider taking the following next step on your faith journey. . .

- **Experiencing the Great Commission:** Sometimes we do not think that Jesus' life and vision truly are our own for Jesus has not spoken this into our own life directly. This week, consider allowing Jesus to speak directly to you. Find a time and place where you can be alone in quiet. Read Matthew 28.1-20 slowly and out loud. Pause and allow the meaning and weight of the verses to sink in. Then, read the text once more. This time imagine you are among the disciples, one of them. Allow their experience with Jesus, hearing his words to be your own. Open yourself to allowing Jesus to look at you, to speak to you, to commission you as he did those first disciples. Sit and let him say to you anything else he might have to say, then, respond to him. You might consider journaling your experience and what Jesus said to you.