

Sermon Series: Vision 2020 Recap
Sermon title: Be Sent
Scripture reading: Matthew 28:18-20
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
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On November 16, 2018, John Chau, a 26 year old Chinese American, set out in his kayak for the last time to try and make contact with the Sentinelese, a stone age tribe living on North Sintenel Island, a part of the Andaman Islands chain.

He never returned.

John's story is polarizing. Many see him as a brave courageous man of God who gave his life to try and share Jesus Christ with the Sentinelese any way he could. And many see him as a rogue, stupid young man who should've left people alone and not tried to convert them.

Was he crazy?

His own story has led many to debate if Christians should really do missions & evangelism; if Christians should really obey this 'Great Commission' that Jesus gave us to

take the message of salvation in Christ to our neighbors and even to the ends of the earth.

I mean, **"Why not just leave people alone?"**

Well, our church believes that we are still called to share Jesus with others and that the last order our commanding officer gave us is still in effect.

That's why our church vision states that we desire to obey God by focusing on 3 things:

Behold God.

Belong to the one another and build one another up.

& **Be Sent**.

It's this last one that we will address today.

I'd say probably all of us believe in the Great Commission.

That's not to say that we don't struggle obeying!

We all struggle to tell our family, neighbors, co-workers and friends about Jesus Christ. And it's rare to see Christians today leave their own culture to move to another one for the purpose of sharing Jesus.

Why do we struggle so much with sharing?

What is it that we struggle with?

How can we overcome our struggles to **Be Sent**?

Let's pray.

Today, we want to take a look at that Great Commission, that last command that Jesus gave us.

My goal is to give us some encouragement and some help in overcoming whatever struggles we have in obeying Christ and it's my prayer that God will kick us out into the lives of our neighbors and into the nations.

Turn in your Bible to **Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and said to them,

18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What I want to do is break this passage down into 3 sections for us. We usually only think about the middle but I'll show you that unless we believe v. 18 and v.20 we cannot do verse 19.

In fact, let me say this....

The reason why we struggle with making disciples of all nations is because we don't believe that Jesus has

all authority and we don't believe that he is with us always.

If we really believed these things.....we'd go anywhere.

I. ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO JESUS.

"All authority in **heaven** and on **earth** has been given to me."

This is a staggering sentence.

What does he mean by *authority*?

Power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases.

The power of him whose will and commands must be submitted to by others and obeyed.

In heaven and on earth, Jesus has all authority.

How?

Philippians 2:6-11

though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every

knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 5:1-13

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" **3** And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, **4** and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. **5** And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **7** And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. **8** And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which

are the prayers of the saints. **9** And they sang a new song, saying,

*“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation **10** and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”*

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, **12** saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Jesus Christ submitted to God the Father perfectly in every way. He obeyed God in everything. He even gave his sinless life as a sacrifice for sinners so that they could be forgiven. Because of this sacrifice, God rose him from the dead and gave him authority. All who believe in Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for sin, will be saved. And Jesus has the power to give eternal life in heaven to all who believe in him.

God has given him this authority.

But this authority over heaven and earth means more than just salvation. It also means he's sovereign. He rules over everything. For missions what it means is that nothing will happen to you if he doesn't will it.

This authority means protection.

Matthew 10:26-33

26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. **28** And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

This authority means provision.

Matthew 6:33

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."

This authority means words.

Matthew 10:17-20

17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, **18** and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. **19** When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. **20** For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Oh, what would the church do if we really believed that Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth!

II. JESUS IS WITH US ALWAYS

Matthew 28:20

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

The foundation of the Great Commission is the authority and power of Jesus Christ in heaven and on earth.

But he gives us a promise to go along with it.

His presence!

Do you think that you are alone?
You are not alone. Ever!

Whether you walk into that workplace with so many problems or that neighbor with so many problemsor if you settle in the ends of the earth in a place where no one knows Jesus Christ....

You are not alone. Jesus goes with you.

Some of us need to be reminded of these things cause we are scared to speak up, scared to invite people over, scared to quit our jobs and move to the nations!

Jesus has all authority and Jesus goes with us.

That's why we can do **Matthew 28:19**.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.

Brothers and sisters, what prevents you from **Being Sent**.

What are you afraid of?

Some of you may be afraid of losing your free time.

Some of you may be afraid of losing your income.

Some of you afraid of not knowing what to say.

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth.
Jesus promises to be with you.

So, Go and make disciples.

The last command we've been given by our King is still in effect. Lose your life for Jesus.

If we leave people alone, we leave them to perish forever.

Just before he died, John Chau wrote this in his journal to his family.

*Brian and Marilyn and Mom and Dad,
You guys might think I'm crazy in all this but I think it's worth it to declare Jesus to these people.*

Please do not be angry at them or God if I get killed—rather please live your lives in obedience to whatever He has called you to and I'll see you again when you pass through the veil.

Don't retrieve my body. This is not a pointless thing—the eternal lives of this tribe is at hand and I can't wait to see them around the throne of God worshipping in their own language as Revelations 7:9-10 states.

I love you all and I pray none of you love anything in this world more than Jesus Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria

John Chau

John Chau wasn't crazy.

He understood what it meant to **Be Sent**.