

A 3D cutaway of a landscape. The top part shows a lush green valley with a bright turquoise lake. A stone wall, made of dark grey and brown stones, runs across the middle. A waterfall flows from the lake through a gap in the wall. The background is a map of a region, with a circular area highlighted in dark blue. The text "DECONSTRUCTING MISSIONS" is overlaid in white, outlined letters. Below it, "MATTHEW 9:35-38" is written in a smaller, white, outlined font.

# DECONSTRUCTING MISSIONS

MATTHEW 9:35-38



- Deconstruct = to take something apart in order to expose its biases, flaws or inconsistencies
- Why deconstruct missions?
  - Because misconceptions lead to misuse of resources and accomplishing the wrong goals
  - Your unbiblical, personal view of missions might not be missions at all!

- What are some of our misconceptions?
  1. Jesus saved me and sends us to tell others—the church should do a better job at that!
  2. My personal mission is to love people and be nice.
- How can we begin to rightly understand missions?
  3. God's got a mission
  4. Living on God's mission is living missional
  5. A missionary is one who is sent and goes
- God's mission—to bring as many people as possible to know and love God through Christ, for their joy and his glory



- Bad theology can also make it hard to live on mission
- Modernism–Christianity is outdated and the message must be upgraded
  - 100 years ago–supernatural
  - Now? Morality; truth
- Being missional is living in line with Scripture, no matter what culture promotes

- Matthew 28:18 isn't so much "go" as it is "as you are going"
  - God's mission isn't an add on or an extra component
- The church is ekklesia = called out ones
  - Our identity is that we have been called out of darkness and death into light and life
  - Every Christian is called out to be on God's mission (transformissional)
- Christ outlines what this looks like in our lives



## **Acts 1:8 (NASB)**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

DECONSTRUCTING  
MISSIONS

MATTHEW 9:35-38

- The power of the Holy Spirit
- What was the point of the power of the Holy Spirit?
  - To give us the ability to be Christ's witnesses
- Are you bored and unfulfilled in your Christianity?
  - Maybe it's because you are not being filled with the Spirit's power to be his witness!

DECONSTRUCTING  
MISSIONS

MATTHEW 9:35-38



- Christ's witnesses
  - To the message and work of Jesus
  - Christ's substitution, resurrection, grace and uniqueness
- Seen in Acts 14:19-28—faith and perseverance needed to mature in the faith



- Why start in Jerusalem?
  - It was the most effective delivery system for the Gospel
  - The gospel most effectively goes on the lips of men and women who have been changed by the gospel
- What was Samaria?
  - The most uncomfortable and unlovable group of people
- What were the remotest parts of the earth?
  - Richmond, TX





**ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

WHILE METHODIST MISSIONARIES HAD SERVED THE RICHMOND AREA AS EARLY AS 1824, THIS CONGREGATION WAS ORGANIZED JANUARY 22, 1839, BY THE REV. JESSE HORD. EARLY MEMBERS INCLUDED SOME OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S "OLD 300" COLONISTS. THE CONGREGATION BUILT THIS RED BRICK SANCTUARY IN 1922. DESIGNED BY C. N. NELSON OF HOUSTON, THE GOTHIC REVIVAL BUILDING FEATURES WHITE TERRA COTTA TRIM AND MODIFIED TUDOR GOTHIC ARCHES. RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK-1983



- Are you still working with mis-constructed ideas about missional living?
  - It's an excuse to say "I can't go there until I've gone \_\_\_\_\_"
  - I'll go there and get started
  - Someone else will do it

DECONSTRUCTING  
MISSIONS

MATTHEW 9:35-38



- WHILE you are going, do this!
- We don't want to be a "come here" congregation—we are sending you!
- What can I do?
  - Pray
  - Give
  - Go
  - Love
  - Say
- What is God's grand plan for the world to know and love him? For your One?
  - YOU!