

Jan. 24 "Compelling Provision"

*Jesus profoundly affects the world because He profoundly affects people – giving each individual a new identity and new purpose. Through His Spirit, Jesus empowers us to serve Him and provides a way for us to lead compelling lives, too.*

Before we delve into today's text, I want to point to something significant  
Jesus was Sent As the Father has sent me

I'd never seen how many times in John's Gospel it says that Jesus was "sent:"

**John 4:34** *"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who **sent** me and to finish his work.*

**5:36-40** *"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has **sent** me. And the Father who **sent** me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.*

**6:29** *Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has **sent**."*

**6:38-40** *For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who **sent** me. And this is the will of him who **sent** me that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.*

**6:57** *Just as the living Father **sent** me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.*

**7:16** *Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who **sent** me.*

**7:28-29** *Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, "Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own, but he who **sent** me is true. You do not know him, but I know him because I am from him and he **sent** me."*

**7:33** *Jesus said, "I am with you for only a short time, and then I go to the one who **sent** me.*

**8:16-18** *But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who **sent** me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."*

**8:29** *The one who **sent** me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him."*

**10:36** *what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and **sent** into the world?*

**11:42** *I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you **sent** me."*

**12:44-45** *Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who **sent** me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who **sent** me.*

**13:20** *I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who **sent** me."*

**14:24** *These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who **sent** me.*

**15:21-22** *They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who **sent** me.*

**16:5** *"Now I am going to him who **sent** me*

**17:3-4** *Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have **sent**.*

**17:18-19** *As you **sent** me into the world, I have sent them into the world. "I am sending you."*

Jesus knew who He was, why He came, and what He was supposed to do. He had a very unique sense of purpose and of being called. He knew he was SENT from the Father.

**John 20:21** (last time in John) *As the Father has **sent** me, I am **sending** you* apostello

Just as God sent Jesus, Jesus is going to send the Holy Spirit to us.

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

1.) **Jesus was sent** (The Father sent Jesus)

2.) **Jesus gives His disciples 3 PROVISIONS:**

a.) **Peace**— He says it TWICE because they really needed this! The disciples were together hiding in this room *the doors locked for fear of the Jews*. They were consumed by fear. If the Romans crucified Jesus, their leader, what would they do to His followers? They also had guilt and shame. James and John had been arguing about who would get to sit on his left and right side in glory. Peter said he'd never denied Jesus but he had done so not once or twice but three times. Judas took his own life. They had enormous regrets. Furthermore, they were afraid - they thought they might be next. They were raw and deflated, but they were also very perplexed and confused. They'd seen what had happened to Jesus 48 hours before, but then they started getting these stories of Jesus not being dead. The place was abuzz with emotion.

*Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"* He didn't open the doors and walk in – all of a sudden – there He was. How could this be? They'd just seen Him crucified 2 days before. Now, all of a sudden, Jesus pops in among them. He didn't open the door and walk in – He just appeared. Are they hallucinating? This was surreal. It was a deeply emotional moment.

There are times when the most important thing we can have in life = Jesus' peace.

b.) **Holy Spirit** They were given more than "PEACE" that is tranquil and that it's going to be okay, they were given another provision – the Holy Spirit. Just as God sent Jesus, Jesus is going to send the Holy Spirit to us. "Breathing" – goes back to Gen 2:7 *the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being*. The Holy Spirit will be the empowering agent.

c.) **The church** They were given more than just individual gifts (peace/Holy Spirit). There is something greater than just ME. God gave us other people. Just as God sent Jesus, Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to the church, and the Holy Spirit will send the church all over the world in ministry and mission. They were also given another provision which could be easily overlooked: the church. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out upon individuals, but they were "all together." They were people from all over the world. Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, was also the birthday of the church.

3.) **Then, Jesus sends His church in mission to the world** *I am sending you* They will GET something (Peace) but they are also going to GIVE something (their mission) but disciples also GIVE. We feel called to a job that we are underqualified for. "Who Am I?" Moses felt disqualified. Don't focus upon your limitations – focus upon the power of the Spirit (the greatest power in the world); and the need of others (this is what Jesus was doing – He wasn't there to condemn them or to say "I told you so!" Don't compare yourself to another. You are on your own mission. You won't give an account for me. You'll be equipped for the job you're assigned.

<sup>23</sup> *If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*

Messengers for reconciliation. Offer forgiveness – this is our greatest need. What if we put our greatest energies into this – and not into condemnation? How much potential is in this room right now? How much of it will be realized? We get zapped by all kinds of distractions.

YOU are part of the church if Jesus is your savior – that means YOU are sent with US by the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name to the Glory of God the Father. What is God sending you to do with us?

The **Father Sent Jesus** who sent the **Holy Spirit** who sends the **Church** who sends **YOU**

I'll close with telling about Mary Margaret Mathis and her witness at the funeral service this week for her close friend, Brenda Chockley.