WHERE ARE WE GOING

The week before last I spoke about WHO I AM, last week was WHO WE ARE today I want to cover WHERE WE ARE GOING.

So where are we going? Our going comes out of our belonging which comes out of who we are which is what the last two week talks have been about. If you have not listened t them they are available on our YouTube channel.

For us to know where we are going, I felt that three Wimbersim's would be helpful for us to find our way together this morning. John Wimber was the founder of the Vineyard movement way back in the last century.

1. Everybody gets to play
2. Doing the Stuff
3. The church is not the building it's the people. It's not just the gathering, it is also the scattering

So let us get started:

EVERYBODY GETS TO PLAY

Mat 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and <u>make disciples of all nations</u>, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Greek word used here by Jesus for ALL is π α˜ ς *PAS,* it means *all, any, every,* the *whole:* - everyone, as many as, whatsoever, whosoever. In other words everyone on the planet!

A quick question for you: ARE YOU AN ALL?

Well, then this applies to you.

A question: Who here can sing? Actually, everyone can sing, it is just how well that differs. We all sang on worship didn't we?

Another question: Who here can pray out loud?

Can we read something together?

Mat 6:9-13 "This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

I never had any frame of reference for praying, especially out loud. A mentor at the time Mike Mahoney who was a strict Irishman invited me over for coffee and then proceeded to ask me to pray for him. I said I would, but he pressed me and wanted prayer there and then. It was deeply uncomfortable for me, but it started me off on a journey of praying…

Everyone gets to play!

Jesus takes it further and I like the way the Passion Translation (Paraphrase) puts it…

Acts 1:8 But I promise you this—the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and <u>you will be seized with power</u>. You will be my messengers to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—even to the remotest places on earth!" (TPT)

You will be seized with power to be His messengers at home, at play, at work, on holiday, with your family, friends, and associates! Everyone! Near and far, to the remotest places on earth…

But Andrew, is this for me?

Act 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

That all who are far off from the Greek is the word **ε ι' ς** which is a present continuous tense. In other words, it is not distance but rather time. This promise is for us today…

And here's the deal: WE ALL GET TO DO THIS! Do what?

DOING THE STUFF

John Wimber called it 'Doing the Stuff' What is the stuff?

Mat 10:7-8 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

My first experience with healing was with a four-year-old boy named Billy who was deaf and received his hearing from the Lord. A four-year-old boy! I could not explain it away.

My first experience with a demonized person was in Zim on my first mission trip. A missionary from Switzerland was with us and during worship, he was standing next to me and

fell to the ground. His eyes rolled back, and he spoke in a different voice. I saw Costa Mitchell on the other side of the auditorium, and he was just watching to see what I would do. To be honest I was terrified. The person was delivered.

On another trip we prayed for a lady with such bad arthritis, her name was Eileen, that she walked with two crutches and was in constant pain. It appeared as if nothing happened but the next day, we visited the old age home to minister to some folks there and on our way out, here came Eileen running behind the car shouting why no one had ever told her that Jesus heals! She was pain-free and remained that way until she passed through to be with Jesus.

When Jesus says: "the kingdom of heaven is near" when He says…

Mat 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

It is not a PLACE we are seeking… When Jesus says, 'Seek first His Kingdom' He is saying seek first THE SPIRITUAL REIGN & AUTHORITY OF GOD. In a nutshell, the Kingdom of God is the breakthrough of the personal, dynamic rule of God in and through the Person of Jesus Christ and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus tells us to pray, "Father, Your kingdom come" He is not telling us to pray for a place to come, but rather for the SPIRITUAL REIGN & AUTHORITY OF GOD to come. As it is in heaven…

Pauls says it this way:

1Co 4:20 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.

For us as a Vineyard, it is about both the PROCLAMATIOM and the DEMONSTRATION of the kingdom…

When you step out in faith, which by the way is spelt R.I.S.K. but we RISK in LOVE and pray for a sick person and they are healed, then you do it again and another person is healed. All of a sudden your life is different and you want to pray for more sick people. You begin to look, listen and respond to people who are not well around you.

When you understand the kingdom this way, you cannot compartmentalize your life any longer. The kingdom permeates all aspects of your life. As you begin to seek His rule and authority in every area, whether at work, home, at play, with friends, family, associates… Things begin to change…

I know from my own life as I began to understand that Christian life is not about 'Pie in the sky when you die' it's rather about 'Steak on the plate while you wait' Seek the 'Already' of the kingdom, it is available here and now. We too often have a view that Christianity is about the birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and it absolutely is. However, it is also about so much more! What about from the time between when you meet and invite Jesus into your life and you stand before the Father? There is more to Christian life than getting to heaven! We have a part to play in the mission of God on this earth.

Too often the army of Jesus Christ, which is you, by the way, live a cauterized, placid, complacent life. We don't understand the power that is available to us and how we should be living…

John Wimber made a powerful statement and this is my paraphrase of it. "*When we count on and depend on, when we let everything hinge on and rest on a few distinctive leaders,*

faithful men and women of God, to dish out and distribute healing, prophecy, giving, words of knowledge, prayer, care, love, basically any revelations and gifts of the Holy Spirit, we disempower God's army and turn them into onlookers and spectators, basically an audience"

Do you know who God's army is? You, you, you, you… Every single person here today. If you have Jesus in your life, you are called to engage in His master plan and mission to the world. And that is not just with wise words, not just with participating, not just with justice causes, not just being a good person… All of these are good things that we must aspire to by the way…

You may be thinking that I hear you, Andrew, everybody does get to play, and everybody does get to do the stuff, but you just don't know my life, what I have to do, my job, my wife, my life…

THE CHURCH IS NOT THE BUILDING IT'S THE PEOPLE. IT'S NOT JUST THE GATHERING, IT IS ALSO THE SCATTERING – John Wimber

There is a sign at the gate as you exit that says, YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD… it is true, we gather to scatter into the world.

As a human body breathes in and out, so we come together, like taking a breath in, and then we scatter into the world, like taking a breath out.

Where are we going? We are going after His Presence, we are not going after seeker sensitive. We are going after His presence, and He will build His church. His Presence compels us to engage with the Missio Dei (mission of God) for our lives.

There needs to be an intentionality to our engagement…

Mat 9:37-38 He said to his disciples, "The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields."

Let us pray for more workers, and know that you, me, WE, are the workers! Discipleship is key in all of our lives, this is the starting point of where we are going. DMM (Discipleship Making Movement) Groups. The following Video explains what DMM groups are:

VIDEO - DMM

- In 2024, we would like to see many new small groups (DMM) start up in conjunction with our discipleship series which will start at the end of January.
- We will do a New Members class toward the end of January.
- Baptism Class and Baptism's once our new stairs are ready for the Baptismal Pool.
- We will also be launching the BUILD Series which are elective next steps classes for members to move forward in their discipleship.
- We will have several courses running throughout the year, things like School of the Prophets, Celebrate Recovery and others.
- For further theological training, S.O.L.T. is available and I am a director of the university and fully endorse it.
- Healing Rooms will continue.

As a Vineyard, we are part of a Global Family of churches. We engage locally here in Centurion, in Gauteng, in South Africa, Africa and around the globe. There is room in the Vineyard for you to participate in all aspects of going.

When we go, we will see our own lives changed, our church changed, our community changed, our city changed, our nation changed, and the world changed.

I am the Coordinator of Vineyard Missions Africa; I also serve on the Vineyard Global Missions Team which is to around 110 nations. There are lots of opportunities. Pray about your family, friends, associates, work, play, and community, but also is the Lord calling you to engage somewhere, to come with a team to Durban, Cape Town, Gqeberha, or further afield.

As I am sharing with you, I am busy with teams from around the nation and globe planning a mission conference with some international and national speakers, right here at CVCF in May. I will not be going on all these trips but there are some in and around South Africa with Victor and Radha, Brian Blount, to Kenya, others to Uganda, Angola, Botswana, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Mauritius, Rodrigues Islands, Malawi, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Mali, South Sudan and more.

It is time that we step more fully into our call to the mission of God for our lives. Bring your friends and family to church. The reality is that the world needs Jesus, everybody gets to play, we should all be doing the stuff, and our faith is about gathering as well as scattering into the world to transform, ourselves, our families, friends, work colleagues, acquaintances, community, city, nation, and the world.