



25 SEP 2022 | PASTOR JOACHIM TAN

THE NATIONS MANDATE | MATTHEW 28:18-20

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

- Understand and embrace our mandate to reach all the peoples of the earth.
- Desire to grow in our heart for the lost, poor and needy, and to step out in faith to devote more of our lives, time and resources to fulfil the mandate to reach the nations.

SERMON SUMMARY

As believers, we have a clear and important mandate to fulfil – the Great Commission, to reach all the peoples of the earth.

1. The **heart** of the mandate – it is God's longing and desire for all men to be saved.
2. The **weight** of the mandate – all of heaven's power, authority and resources were given to the Church to make the mandate an accomplished fact.
3. The **responsibility** of the mandate – Jesus has given this commission and mandate to the Church.

SERMON RECAP

All believers have a clear, tremendous, and intense mandate to fulfil to reach the nations – the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Pastor Joachim shared 3 truths about the mandate:

1. The Heart of the Mandate

- Why did Jesus give this overwhelming mandate (the Great Commission) to His church? Wouldn't the two greatest commandments be sufficient and a big enough challenge for us to live by as Christians?
- *It is the longing and deep desire of God for all men to be saved* ([1 Timothy 2:1-4](#)).
- In [John 3:16](#), we see the deep desire of the Father in action as He sacrificed His one and only Son in order that the world may be saved. We do not sacrifice anything unless it is of much worth and importance to us. Yet the Father sacrificed His Son for the world. This is the very heart of the mandate.
- If we say we know the heart of God, we must know His heart and deep desire is for the nations. If we know His heart is for the peoples of the nations, then how can we ignore His heart?



2. The Weight of the Mandate

What was sacrificed for the mandate? How much emphasis and priority did heaven give towards this mandate?

- Heaven spared no resources for this mandate to be accomplished.
- The Holy Spirit was given to empower the Church to fulfil the very commission Jesus gave ([Acts 1:8](#)). God promised to back us up with power, miracles, signs and wonders as we obey the Commission ([Mark 16:15-18](#)).
- All of heaven's power, authority and resources were given to the Church to make the mandate an accomplished fact.
- If God spares no resources in fulfilling the mandate, how much resources (including our lives and time) are we giving to fulfil the mandate?

3. The responsibility of the mandate


- Who is responsible for the mandate? – It is the church who is responsible for the mandate, because Jesus has given His church the mandate. He gave the nations to us to intercede, watch over, reach, love and disciple.
- How will the mandate be fulfilled? It is always through the church; Everyone is needed to fulfil the mandate.
- Ps Joachim shared what God was doing among the B'laan people in Sarangani, Philippines, from the mission trip in August 2022, and how the local church was reaching out to the B'laan people:
 - a. Completion of the Kabog church, and a dormitory for students
 - b. 16 B'laan churches planted in past 7 years; and believing God to multiply this further to 32 churches in the next 5 years
- Only the Church alone can fulfil the ultimate heart and the desire of the Father. Only the Church can finish the task of the Great Commission.
- The nations are found deep in the heart of God. Therefore, it is our responsibility and calling to reach the nations for Jesus Christ. So that the nations will bring glory and delight back to the Father's heart.

In conclusion, God is calling us to respond in 2 ways:

- Let us reach our God-assigned nations and cities with full conviction to see the glory of God manifested and lives changed (e.g. go for a mission trip)
- Let us shepherd and care for our assigned nations with great love and concern; during a time of great famine (e.g. contribute to fund and support the global hunger crisis).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus has given the responsibility of fulfilling the Great Commission to the Church ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). How much resources (including your time and making lifestyle changes) are you giving for the mandate to be fulfilled? What are some hindrances, beliefs or attitudes that may hinder you from doing so?
2. Share a past experience being on a mission trip or being involved in reaching the nations (e.g. through prayer or giving of your resources). How did it impact you?

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3. **Pastor Joachim challenged us to reach and care for our God-assigned nations during a time of great famine, with conviction to see God's glory manifested and our lives changed. How can you be involved in fulfilling the Great Commission, both individually and/or as a cell group?**

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**

- For us to understand and embrace our mandate to reach all the peoples of the earth.
- For us to grow in our heart for the lost, poor and needy, and devote more of our lives, time and resources to fulfil the mandate to reach the nations.

2. **World**

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Pray for peace especially in areas of conflict (Ukraine) and potential conflict – China & Taiwan.


3. **Opportunities for Outreach**

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **Updated Safe Management Measure.** Mask wearing for indoor worship services and religious classes is now optional. All worshippers and performers can sing and play instruments without wearing masks. For services involving more than 500 persons (excluding religious workers, performers and supporting workers), worshippers must be fully vaccinated (present vaccination status upon entry).
2. **New Sermon Series: Worship at Work.** 2 Oct to 16 Oct.
3. **Alpha @ RiverLife. 20 Aug – 29 Oct.** Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to explore the basics of the Christian faith. Each session includes a short video and a discussion at the end where you can ask anything or share your thoughts. Sign up online: rlc.sg/join-alpha.
4. **RiverLife Missions Upcoming Trips.** Signup: rlc.sg/signupformissions.
 - Arise and Shine Church Pastors & Leaders Conference. Pangasinan, North Philippines. 9-14 November. Cost: \$800.
 - Encounter Camp & Revival Rallies, Asansol, India. 30 Sep – 6 Oct. \$1200.
5. **Call for Musicians and Vocalists.** The Worship & Music ministry is on the lookout for musicians and vocalists – keyboardist, electric guitarist, bassist, drummer



and singers. If you are interested, you can sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Do note that an audition will be required before joining the ministry.

6. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:


- *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
- *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)

7. **F&B Related Ministries Recruitment.** We're looking for RiverLifers who love connecting with new people and enjoy cooking and serving. Team members will serve once a month. For more details Karen Koh (Welcome Lounge) at karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg and Jonathan Cho (The Café and Volunteers Corner) at jonathancho@riverlife.org.sg.

8. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our [digital bulletin](#) for more details.

9. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS).** In 2021, RCS focused on providing relief to families who were badly affected by the pandemic. We believe that in this season, God is calling RCS to build loving families and strong communities. Listed below are opportunities where you can serve or give to RCS:

- You can serve as a volunteer in one of our programmes to befriend and build relationships with children, youth, mothers and lower-income families. Find out more here: rlc.sg/racs2022.
- You can sow by contributing financially too. Your giving will go into initiatives such as grocery distributions and various programmes that will help our beneficiaries build resilience and break free from the poverty cycle. Find out more by writing to RCS at office@racs.org.sg.
- RCS is also looking to partner with organizations (donations of essential items – toiletries, wearables, etc). To find out more, write to us at volunteer@racs.org.sg.
- RCS is looking for 20 Food Collection Helper/Driver that is able to help with the loading/unloading of fresh food items at blocks where we are reaching out to. Commitment: Minimally once a month for 6 months, Saturdays, 12-4pm. Contact: rlcares@racs.org.sg.

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10. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.
 11. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
 12. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
 13. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
 14. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting: <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
 15. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

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