PARADIGMS (Acts 1:8)

Starting Point for Planting: Learn how to be **strategic** in our thinking. Our **methods** have to follow the same line. Strategies and **paradigms** lead us to better success.

Context is the key to missions. Context is the environment **culture**, people group, or location we find ourselves in.

Good Strategies

Start with the **Bible**! (See Acts 1:8) This is where our transferable principles and our training come from.

Jerusalem is our **city**. Judea is our **state**. Samaria is the **U.S**. And the 'ends of the earth' are **foreign** countries.

'Be on mission' **4** times in your Jerusalem, **3** times in your Judea, **2** times in your Samaria, and **1** time in your 'ends of the earth'. We need to look at this verse both **geographically** and as a **world view**. This helps us become better missionaries. Our world view is our mind set.

How to Get My Church Involved in 'Missions'.

It begins with our mind sets (world view).

- Our Jerusalem is the people most like us. The people we '**do life with**' on a daily basis. They think the same way we do politically and religiously.
- Our Judea are people who like the same things we do. These are our friends and our **affinity** groups that we participate in. Their world view is similar to ours.
- Our Samaria is similar to our Judea except they **worship** in a different place. They are similar in **appearance** but their world view is different. Usually these people are our co-**workers**.
- Our 'ends of the earth' people are different in appearance and world view. An example is **foreign** nationals. They are not followers of Christ.

Our acts 1:8 strategy helps us be a good steward of **time**, **people**, and the **resources** God sends my way.

The Next Step…Understanding the Life-style of a Missionary

Pray to join God in His work so we can **network** for evangelism that results in **relational** groups which become **small** groups that make **disciples** which become the **church**. Church planting is about reaching the **lost**. This is the only reason we plant churches.

- Not a '**build** it and they will come' mentality.
- Exegete the **culture**. Find out where they are gathering and why.
- Then we **gather** with them. Become good 'question askers'. Find out where they are spiritually.
- Build **relationships** and friendships with them.
- Understand where they are **spiritually**. We do this by asking good questions.
- **Invite** them to journey with us. As we journey with them we study the life of Jesus, the Bible, etc.
- Become a **small** group. This leads to making **disciples**.
- As we worship together we are being the **church**.

How to Understand 'Planting Churches' (Theology for Planting)

Key Question: What is 'Church'? A **local** body of **believers** who gather **together** to carry out the mission of **worship**, **evangelism**, **discipleship**, **fellowship** and **ministry**- observing the ordinances of **baptism** and the **Lord's Supper** with local leadership that is autonomous.

- Self-**governing**
- Self-**sustaining**
- Self-**supporting**

Gathered together in Christ's name to carry out the Great **Commandment** and the Great **Commission.**

Questions to ask yourself:

- What do you need in order to be a church?
- What is the bare minimum for our context?

Paradigms (Strategies)

3 Contemporary categories for church planting:

- **Pragmatic:** Choose a model and use it. Examples: Willow Creek, Saddleback, House Churches, Multi-site, Traditional, etc. Not much emphasis on context.
- **Paternalistic:** Culture of the planter is chosen by the (parent) church he is coming from. Context is the parent church.
- **Biblical:** (preferable) Ecclesiological bare minimum of 'what is the church?' Look, as missionaries, into our context. We get our clues (heart-language) from the culture.

Conclusion: The best model is the Biblical model. It gives us the ability to be **transferable** across any **context**, and it is **sustainable** and **multiplicative**.

Additional Notes/Homework: