



Series Title: IMPACTERS - Who We Are

Living as Impacters in the Modern World

Week 9 (30 March 2025)

Summary:

This week's Message explores the concept of "Impacters," a community dedicated to proclaiming the glory of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. It emphasizes the importance of commitment in Christian life, drawing parallels with religious orders throughout history. Bruce outlines personal and corporate commitments that shape the Impacter's way of life, focusing on deepening one's relationship with Jesus, serving others, and living out faith in everyday contexts. The Message challenges listeners to consider their role in reaching a spiritually impoverished world and encourages them to embrace a life of purpose and impact through these commitments.

Key Points:

- Impacters exist to proclaim the glory of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.
- The importance of personal and corporate commitments in shaping spiritual life.
- The role of community in nurturing faith and reaching others.
- The need for Christians to live differently and intentionally in a world hungry for meaning.
- The power of commitment as an expression of love and a path to freedom.
- The urgency of reaching younger generations with the gospel.
- The significance of each individual's contribution to the mission.

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 9:23 (implied reference to taking up one's cross daily)
- Acts 2:42 (reference to the early church's devotion to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer)

Stories:

- The story of various religious orders throughout history (Benedictines, Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, Sisters of St. Joseph, etc.) and their unique charisms and rules of life.
- Reference to the parable of the Prodigal Son (mentioned briefly in worship introduction)
- Story of four Christian brothers influencing an entire school community.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How might the Impacter's commitments serve as a 'beautiful scaffolding' in your own spiritual life, and what challenges might you face in adopting them?
- What does it mean to you to be 'transformed' by an encounter with Jesus, and how might this transformation be evident in someone's life?
- What does it mean to you personally to 'proclaim the glory of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth', and how can you live this out in your specific context?
- How can we balance the need for commitment and structure in our faith with the freedom and grace that Jesus offers?
- In what ways can we create a 'spiritual home' for those seeking deeper faith, especially in a world that often values individualism over community?
- How might viewing commitment as an expression of love rather than a burden change our approach to spiritual disciplines and church involvement?
- What role do you think small, committed communities like Impacters can play in renewing the broader Church, especially in light of predicted declines in traditional church attendance?
- How can we effectively minister to different age groups, particularly children and teenagers, in a way that fosters genuine encounters with Jesus?
- In what ways can we prepare our hearts more intentionally for significant moments in the Christian calendar, such as Palm Sunday and Easter, to deepen our spiritual experience?

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Opening Prayer:

Begin by praying the Impacter's prayer together as a group. Lord Jesus, as we gather to discuss your Word and the message we've heard, open our hearts and minds to your truth. Help us understand how we can live out our commitments as Impacters for your Kingdom. Amen.

Key Takeaways:

- Impacters exist to proclaim the glory of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.
- The Impacter's commitments are not rules, but a sacred rhythm for walking closely with Jesus and others.
- Commitment is not about control, but about love and how faith becomes action.
- The 14 Impacter's commitments (7 personal, 7 corporate) shape our spiritual life together.
- Being an Impacter is about living differently and allowing these commitments to guide your heart, shape your habits, and grow your holiness.

Discussion Questions:

- Bruce mentions that many people today are searching for meaning and purpose. How have you experienced or observed this in your own life or the lives of those around you?
- Reflect on the statement: "Impacter's commitments give shape to our surrender, structure to our zeal, and unity to our diversity." What does this mean to you personally?
- Of the 7 personal commitments mentioned (Jesus as Lord, daily prayer, daily Scripture reading, practicing sacraments, sharing life, service, sacrificial giving), which one challenges you the most and why?
- The Message emphasizes that commitment is about love, not control. How does this perspective change the way you view spiritual disciplines or commitments in your faith journey?
- Discuss the concept of being "scattered but spiritually united" as Impacters. How can we maintain this unity despite geographical distances?
- Bruce states, "We don't need people to go into religious places and religious huddles and religious sects. We need people to come in in order that they can go out and be the hands, the feet and the voice of God in the world." How can we live this out practically in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. Choose one of the personal commitments to focus on this week. Share with the group which one you've chosen and how you plan to implement it.
2. Reflect on your current spiritual rhythms. Are there areas where you can incorporate more intentionality based on the Impacter's commitments?

3. Identify one person in your life who may be spiritually impoverished or searching for meaning. Commit to praying for them daily and look for opportunities to share God's love with them.
4. As a group, brainstorm ways you can support each other in living out these commitments, both individually and corporately.
5. Consider how you can use your current vocation or daily activities as a platform for being an "Impacter" in your sphere of influence.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank you for calling us to be Impacters for your Kingdom. Help us to live out these commitments not out of obligation, but out of love for You and for others. Give us the courage to say yes to You every day and to live differently in a world that needs Your love. In Jesus' name, Amen.