INTRODUCTION. “Outside the Box” (Matthew 4:23-25, 9:35-38 NLT) Is there a solution to the pollution, an answer to the problems of our communities, a fix to this broken society? From the borders to the street corners, America has some serious issues. What’s the answer? How can things be fixed? Who can solve society’s issues? Is it the POLICE? No (especially not by themselves), because it’s going take more than elaborate weapons. Is it the POLITICIANS? No (especially not by themselves), because it’s going take more than empty words. Is it PARENTS? No (especially not by themselves), because it’s going take more than extra whippings. POLICIES can inform but they cannot inspire. PHILOSOPHIES can get people thinking but they can’t move people to actions. Even PHILANTHROPIST can buy the house but they can’t create a home. Of but if you give me a church with PREACHER and PEOPLE (the PULPIT and the PEW) who’s BRAVE enough to step outside the box, who’s BIG enough to work outside the box, and who’s BOLD enough to think outside the box, we can REVITALIZE our communities, MOBILIZE our citizens, EVANGELIZE the lost, UTILIZE available resources, CAPITALIZE on the economy and REALIZE our dreams. All of these others may be a PIECE of the solution but the church has the WHOLE SOLUTION, the REAL DEAL! II Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 11:11 (that’s the problem with Talk Radio and Talking Heads on the news), Proverbs 14:34. These are God-Size problems that only God can solve. Since real WORSHIP happens when we take the WORD of God and do the WORK of God in the WORLD around us, it’s time to get Outside the Box! When Jesus came, he was not stuck inside of the synagogue walls, but He took His Word and Works to those on the outside – That’s MISSION and MINISTRY. His Message and Miracles to the Multitudes – That’s MISSION and MINISTRY. His Preaching and Power done in the Public – That’s MISSION and MINISTRY. Brown, let’s do MISSION and MINISTRY Jesus way. I don’t want to be condemned with those on the left in Matthew 25:41-46

I. **His MOTIVATION!** (Matthew 9:36) *His Compassion!* What motivated Jesus? The Crisis among the Crowds. The Crowds were Confused and Helpless. They were so wearied of life. Even today, they are worried and wearied in spite of their wealth, exhausted even with the easiness of life, faint of spirit and body despite the freedoms we enjoy. The Church have no Compassion and Heart. Jesus was moved with compassion. We’re more moved by songs instead of souls, the band instead of brokenness, the praise and worship instead of people and working. **Let’s do MISSION and MINISTRY, the Jesus Way!** Don’t look away from the Problem! See the lonely and lost, homeless and hungry, abused and abandoned, hurting and helpless, pusher and the prostitute, the self-righteous church
folks. How many of us when riding down the street and see somebody begging, we start praying that they don’t come to our come.

II. **His Mobilization!** (Matthew 4:23 village to village) **His Concentration!** Where did Jesus go and work? EVERYWHERE to EVERYBODY! We try to limit the PLACES we do ministry (urban vs. suburban; city vs. country, local vs. international) or we try to limit the PEOPLE (black, white or brown; rich or poor; learned or unlearned). But Jesus went everywhere. Jesus didn’t have barriers. **Let’s do MISSION & MINISTRY, the Jesus Way! Don’t limit His Plan!** Joh 3:16; II Peter 3:9 Let’s go EVERYWHERE to EVERYBODY. Digital Discipleship.

III. **His Methods!** (Matthew 4:23) **His Complete Cure!** How did Jesus solve the issues? Preaching, Teaching, and Healing. The complete cure, the package deal. Every church ought to be doing ALL three inside and outside. I Thessalonians 5:23. Man is three parts – Body, Soul, and Spirit. With our Body, we relate to the world. With our Soul, we relate to ourselves and others. With our Spirit we relate to God. **Preaching is for the Spirit. Teaching for the Soul. Healing for the Body.** Preaching gets folks SAVED. Teaching gives folks SENSE. Healing makes folks STRONG. Preaching gets folks right with God. Teaching helps folks to stay right with others. Healing makes folks feel right within their bodies. Let’s do MISSION and MINISTRY, the Jesus Way! Don’t lose His Power! The Church is losing power because we are getting away from Sound Preaching and Teaching from the Word of God; Spiritual Healing from the Holy Spirit and Practical Healing from the fruit of our labors (feeding, clothing, etc.).

IV. **The Multitudes!** (Matthew 4:25) **His Crowds!** Who did Jesus minister to? Sick folks – spiritually sick, mentally sick, physically sick. Word got out and folks started bringing folks to Jesus to the point where there were CROWDS everywhere He went. Only in church are folks so SMALL-MINDED that we hate CROWDS! Let’s do MISSION and MINISTRY, the Jesus Way! Don’t label His people! Everybody was coming to Jesus. The disciples tried to keep some from getting to Jesus – the children, blind poor beggars. Embrace new folks and Expect all kinds of folks. In our churches, do we embrace new and expect all with judgment? Best place for sick folks is in a hospital. Spiritual-Sick, Mental-Sick, Physical-Sick. Best place for any and all sick folks is in Church. Get the Word Out. Something is happening at the church. . . Jesus wants a full house. Every church ought to be full. Luke 14:23. What would happen if we invite everybody? When you stop to pump gas, invite. On your job? (Can y’all find pictures of folks in the streets watching The World Cup soccer tournaments?)

V. **The Money!** (Luke 8:1-3) **His Cost!** How did Jesus pay for Mission and Ministry? The members. At Brown, we tithe to Mission and Benevolence just like we ask members to tithe. Scholarships to assist those in colleges, jobs for our youth in the summer, feeding those in Senior housing a meal a day, providing utilities and low rent, in a safe and secure environment, helping folks keep lights on, food on their tables, supporting schools, broadcasting the Truth of Scripture on the radios, supporting other churches and ministries.
Let’s do MISSION and MINISTRY, the Jesus Way! Don’t leave off the pocketbook!
Have you given to Missions and Ministry? Malachi 3. They are the same! Moses and the Tabernacle.

VI. **CONCLUSION**

- Gospel – Thank You, Jesus for Getting outside the Box, leaving heaven, walking these streets. He bore our sins. He gave His life.

- Let’s be **BOLD** enough to **think outside the box**. Social Media – 5000 (half of our members) x The average Facebook user now has about 338 friends, though the median number is quite a bit lower: 200. This means that while half of all Facebook users have 200 or fewer friends, many of the billion-plus Facebookers have quite a few more. In fact, 15 percent of users have friend lists topping 500. 5000 x 338 = 1,690,000

- Let’s be **BIG** enough to **work outside the box**. Come in here for Maintenance. Go out there for Mission and Ministry. Come to Strengthen. Go to Save. Come to Worship. Go to Work. SERVE Both Places!

- Let’s be **BRAVE** enough to **step outside the box**. Easy to shout on the inside. Go back to the corner, to the hood.

- **Take the Word. Do the Work. In the World around us.**

- The Walls will come down . . . Folks will come in

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“Equipping Saints to be Like a Tree Planted in the Word”
How do we get there?  “WIN (some new)  KEEP (committed)  LIFT (average)”

(1) Wholistic Approach ~ Take Ten Challenge. Faith ~ Read Bible for 10 minutes daily. Fitness ~ Exercise at least 10 minutes. Finance ~ Give 10 percent. (2) Next steps ~ Encouraging everyone to take their next step in commitment; (3) Developing Partners ~ Prayer Partners, Vision Partners, Mission Partners, etc. PEOPLE give to PERSONALITY, PLACE, PROGRAMS, and other PEOPLE.