

You were Made for a Mission

“Jesus calls us not only to come to Him, but to go for Him.” Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life

*“In the same way that you gave Me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.”
John 17:18 (Msg)*

“One day as He was teaching, Pharisees and religion teachers were sitting around. They had come from nearly every village in Galilee and Judea, even as far away as Jerusalem, to be there. The healing power of God was on Him. Some men arrived carrying a paraplegic on a stretcher. They were looking for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. When they couldn’t find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus. Impressed by their bold belief, He said, ‘Friend, I forgive your sins.’ That set the religion scholars and Pharisees buzzing. ‘Who does he think he is? That’s blasphemous talk. God and only God can forgive sins.’ Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking and said, ‘Why all this gossipy whispering? Which is simpler: to say ‘I forgive your sins,’ or to say ‘Get up and start walking’? Well, just so it’s clear that I’m the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both....’ He now spoke directly to the paraplegic: ‘Get up. Take your bedroll and go home.’ Without a moment’s hesitation, he did it—got up, took his blanket, and left for home, giving glory to God all the way. The people rubbed their eyes, incredulous—and then also gave glory to God. Awestruck, they said, ‘We’ve never seen anything like that!’” Luke 5:17-26 (Msg)

FOUR KEYS TO FULFILLING GOD’S MISSION IN THE WORLD

1. They became _____ for their hurting friend.
*“We should all be concerned about our neighbor and the good things that will build his faith.”
Romans 15:2 (GW)*
2. They believed Jesus _____ their friend.
*Jesus is “able, now and always, to save those who come to God through Him....”
Hebrews 7:25 (TEV)*
3. They didn’t just pray for their friend; they _____ him to Jesus.
“Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.” Luke 14:23 (NLT)
4. They didn’t let difficulties _____ them.
*“... God is patient, because He wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.”
2 Peter 3:9 (CEV)*

Bringing pleasure to God through worship,
Experiencing life together through fellowship,
Growing spiritually to be more like Christ through discipleship,
Serving the needs of others through ministry,
Sharing the Good News through evangelism...
God wants us to not only live purpose-driven lives;
He wants us to grow purpose-driven churches.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Last week we looked at how God wants you to have a ministry in His Church. Now this week, we want to look at how God wants you to have a mission in the world.

1. When you hear the word “evangelism” or think about sharing your faith, what images come to mind?
2. As you reflect on the story of the paraplegic from Luke 5, what stands out to you?
3. The four men who brought this paraplegic to Jesus were not priests or pastors; they were just friends. How comfortable are you building friendships with those who don't know Christ? What steps could you take to begin to build such friendships?
4. The physical needs of this man were obvious, but his spiritual needs were less obvious. What are some of the needs of people in your life that demonstrate a deep spiritual hunger?
5. From Colossians 4:2-6 what principles can you learn about sharing Christ with others?

SERVE/SHARE

The same mission Christ had on earth, helping people find God, He has now given to you. Your mission is simply to pass on to others the same Good News about God's love that someone shared with you.

Turn to a person next to you and share 1-2 names of co-workers, friends, neighbors, or family members who don't know Christ that you would like your entire group to pray for. Then pray for the courage to initiate a conversation about God with them this week. Maybe as a group you can plan a fun, non-threatening event to which you can bring them.

ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Read Luke 5:27-32 and Luke 7:34. What kind of people did Jesus associate with? How accepting are you of people who are far from God?
2. Read Luke 14:23. How different would your group or church be if you really put this verse into action?
3. What can you learn from 2 Peter 3:8-9 about patience and perseverance in reaching your friends who don't know Christ?
4. How do you see that when we truly love God we desire to fulfill the other purposes God has planned for lives?