

MADE FOR A MISSION

Week 6

Last week we looked at how we need a ministry in the church. We also need a mission in the world. So this week we come to the fifth purpose for our lives, **we were made for a mission**, which is the only purpose we can only do on earth. In [John 20:21](#), Jesus said, "[As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.](#)" Now, what are we being sent to do? What is our mission? Well, Paul is really specific. He tells us in [Acts 20:24](#), "[However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.](#)"

Our fifth purpose in life is to **share the Good News**. Once we know that God is in control, once we know that God made us to love us, once we know that our lives aren't an accident, that life has a purpose, all the things we've been talking about during 40 Days, God expects us to share that with other people. God says, "Once you understand it, I want you to pass it on to other people. I want you to share the Good News." Now, there's a word for this, and just like all these other words we've looked at every week, it's often misunderstood. It's the word "evangelism." Now, one thing Christians and non-Christians have in common is, neither of them particularly like that word because it makes us think of smartly dressed people who shout really loudly on TV and say "Send me your money!" But that's not what evangelism is at all, or an evangelist. Evangelism is just the Greek word for "good news."

Now, where are we supposed to share it? In [Acts 1:8](#) we read, "[You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.](#)" When Jesus told this to his followers, they were in Jerusalem. So He is saying, first, I want you to start at home. I want you to start with the people closest to you, right there in your own town, your own community. Then He says I want you to go to Judea and Samaria, that's like the county next door, and Samaritans happen to be different culturally and different racially. So He said, "I want you to go to people nearby, but they are different to you." Then He says, "I want you to go to the ends of the earth. I want you to go reach everybody else."

Now we don't have to be a "salesman" for God, all God wants us to do is to be a "witness." What is a witness? A witness is somebody who just tells what they have seen. You see, we are the experts on our lives. Nobody can be a better witness on our life than us. Nobody can be a better witness of what God has done in our life than us, because we are the authority on our life, not anybody else. So God says, "I just want you to tell other people what's happened to you, what's happened in your life." And He says, "I want you to go all over; the people close to you, the people who are near, but different, and then to everybody else."

Why does He say this? Because we go back to what we said the second week, God is building a family of people who love and trust Him, that are going to spend eternity with Him. The whole point of history is that God is building a family that's going to live with Him forever and love Him. And so God says I want family members from every nation. I want them from all over. And one day all believers are going to be gathered together in heaven. This isn't **Mission Impossible**. This is **Mission Inevitable**. It's going to happen. And it has been God's plan all along.

Paul writes in [Ephesians 3:10-11](#), "[His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.](#)" Here's the amazing part - God has chosen us to complete the mission. The mission that Jesus Christ started when He came to earth, He says, "I want you guys to finish it." God puts the future of the world in our hands. There's a story about God who is speaking to an angel in heaven, and God says, "My plan is to give the Good News to my children on earth and ask them to share it." The angel replied, "What if they don't? What is plan B?" And God says, "There is no plan B." We're it. Being on mission is the greatest privilege we're ever given, to be in on making history, that's what it's all about.

So how do we become a history maker? How do we let God use us and bless us so that we can be completing our mission? Well, we do three things. First, to complete our God-given mission, **we must share with those in our world**. That's the starting point. There's a man who Jesus healed. And after Jesus healed him, he wanted to travel with Jesus, but Jesus said, "No, I don't want you to do that." In [Luke 8:39](#), He said, "[Return home and tell how much God has done for you.](#)" So that man went all over town telling how much Jesus had done for him. Jesus says the same thing to us. Our mission starts right at home. God wants us to go to our friends, our family, our co-workers, our neighbors, anybody who crosses our path. God says, "I want you to share the Good News with the people first in your Jerusalem, with the people in your home."

Now, why in the world should we take the time to share the Good News with somebody else? Why doesn't God take us to heaven the moment we become a believer? Why does God leave us here on earth? Have we ever thought about that?

Well, there are only two things we cannot do in heaven. One of them is sin and the other is tell people who don't know it the Good News about God's love. Now, which of those two reasons do we think we're still alive for? If somebody hadn't shared the Good News with us, we'd be lost. [2 Peter 3:9](#), "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. God is not willing that any should perish." And as long as there's one person on earth who doesn't know the Good News, God says we've got to keep reaching out. How much does God care about our families, our neighbors, our co-workers who don't know the Lord? Jesus Christ stretched out on the cross dying a cruel death - that's how much! And so we have to care because God cares. If we want God's legacy and God's blessing on our lives, we must care about what God cares about most. People!

First, we must share with those in our world. But that's not enough. Second, **[we must dare to reach beyond our world](#)**. Love demands we move beyond our comfort zone to people with different backgrounds, different education, different languages, different economics. Our mission has such eternal consequences, heaven and hell, that we must be willing to risk anything to get the message out. If we had the cure for AIDS, believe me, we'd be shouting it on the street. It would be criminal to keep it a secret. But we have something even more important than that, the way to eternal life. Somebody cared enough to tell you and me, so we've got to be caring enough to tell others. [1 Corinthians 9:22](#), **[To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.](#)** In other words, we just don't hang out with people like us. Christians are called to build bridges, not walls. And repeatedly, the Bible tells us to reach out. God expects us to make the first move. In fact, over and over again God says it in one word: "Go." I want you to go. You can't spell "God" without "go." You can't spell "Good News" without "go." You can't spell "gospel" without "go." We have to go!

Paul writes in [Galatians 6:2](#), **[Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.](#)** What is the law of Christ? Love your neighbor as yourself. Now, we don't have to leave Marston Moretaine or Lidlington to do this. When we read about Jesus, we read that He always rooted for the underdog that people in that society wanted to ignore; the powerless, the poor, the left behind, the imprisoned, the orphaned, the widowed, the aged, the mentally ill, the social outcasts, sick, the lepers.

One day we're going to stand before God and He's going to do an audit of our lives, and He's going to judge if we really learned to love or if it was just all talk. Did we ever really do anything that showed love or did we just say we loved? Jesus says in [Matthew 25:35-36](#), **["For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."](#)** We might ask, "When did we do that for you, Lord?" And Jesus says, **["Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."](#)** When we give a shoe box of toys to a child on the other side of the world who has never had anything. When we sponsor a child from another country whose parents can't afford to send them to school. When we give money to support the work of the Williamson family in Peru. Jesus says, "It is just like did you it for me."

It's not enough to just share with those in my world; it's not even enough to reach beyond my world, to dare to reach beyond it. If we are going to be like Jesus Christ, **[we must care about the whole world](#)**. We care because God cares about the whole world. This is going to take us to a new level of spiritual maturity. Jesus says in [Mark 16:15](#), **["Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."](#)** If we're a Christian, Jesus says, "Follow Me, and I'll make you a fisher of men." If we're not fishing, we're not following. He says to His followers, go everywhere, because everybody deserves to hear the Good News.

Now that used to be impossible. When Jesus said it to His disciples, they didn't even have the ships to get across to other continents. In those days, they had two means of transportation, walk or donkey, maybe a camel. That was it. Now, today, we have ships, and planes and trains and cars and buses; and with the internet, the world has become even smaller. We can communicate to all the world from our home. We can sit in our pajamas and communicate around the world. It has never been easier to fulfill your mission. It has never been easier to care about the whole world.

As we come to the close of 40 days, this next week, let's meditate on [Acts 13:36](#), **["For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers."](#)** May our prayer be that we will serve God's purpose in our generation, in our time. I can't think of a better thing to have on our tombstone: "She served God's purpose in her time;" or "He served God's purpose in his generation." What is more important than that: doing what God put us on earth to do? Here's the test to know if we have completed our mission or not. Are we still alive? If we're still alive, our mission isn't completed.

So we've got four possible responses. We can say like Moses, "Who me?" Or we can say like Jonah, "Not me." Or we can say like Habakkuk, "Why me?" Or we can say like Isaiah, "Send me." The most dangerous prayer we can pray is "God use me." I dare us to say it. Do we have enough courage to say, "God use my life?" Watch what happens! Little becomes much when we put it in the Master's hand.