

Mission: Week 1 Introduction

The natural out working of faith is mission

Mission Definition:

- *A body of persons sent to conduct negotiations or establish relations with a foreign country.*
- *The business with which such a body of persons is charged.*
- *A permanent diplomatic office abroad.*

****Is that the call to us as followers of Jesus?***

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NIV

[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! [18] All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: [19] that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. [20] We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Philippians 3:20 NIV

[20] But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Mission is about all of us!!! Mission is about intentionality. It's about purpose.

It's not about a distant location. It's about a life lived out on location. Where you are... The here and now...

****When you think of mission or missionary, what comes to mind? What about the word ambassador? Do you consider yourself an ambassador for Christ? Who were some of the great missionaries you know of or have heard of? What made them great missionaries?***

Mission is about Being present in the presence of Christ. The outflowing of the indwelling. It's about letting the person and the purpose of Christ become interwoven in our everyday story and activities.

"I don't have an important enough purpose or call"

****Have you ever felt your story wasn't good enough? Why or why not? You have a story. You're a living breathing act of gods goodness. What did your moment of transformation in Jesus look like?***

No - you do.

Listen to Jeremiah 1:4-10 NIV

[4] The word of the Lord came to me, saying, [5] "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. " [6] "Alas, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." [7] But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to

and say whatever I command you. [8] Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord. [9] Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. [10] See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

You don't need someone else's gifts or someone else's story. Your story is unique to you and unique in the expression of God it makes.

***Do you think your story is important? Why or why not?**

*Relationship with God is not an event!!!
It's not a moment.... A prayer.... A resolution...*

It's a story... He pursues and engages. God has woven himself uniquely into your story like no one else's. Each experience, Each success, Each failure, Each trophy, Each scar... We're terrified of getting the scars but scars are the story of pain or trial, but also restoration. Every one is a milestone and a tool for God's story to be told.

***What is God revealing and redeeming in your story? Are you able to look back and see His hand? In what ways might He be working in your story now? Have you seen Him at work in the things you are good at? Make a list of your strengths and thank God for them.**

You don't need a new story, a more convincing story, a sanitised story, a more powerful story... You need your story... Don't be afraid that your story isn't sufficient... God in your story is sufficient...

I love the story of the shepherd boy and the warrior king, the artist and the activist, who led a nation, David of Bethlehem.

Shaped in obscurity. Developed in the dark recesses of insignificance. The reshaping in the battlefields of opinion and criticism. The redefining in the searchlights of success.

Places that many of us know but all of us need.

Every Call must be accompanied by Courage. Courage to embrace and courage to engage, courage to proclaim, courage to be and to do...

***Often our missional life will flow naturally from the gifts and strengths God has placed in you. But it always take courage. What is courage to you? What does it look like in real life? What areas of your life require courage?**

Take people to places you encountered God. Not just locations... Not just church... Places in your life... Transformational experiences... Spaces that are unique to you...

God shapes you on the journey... Within the pilgrimage... In the midst of the discovery.

Philippians 1:6 NIV

[6] being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:13 NIV

[13] for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. ...

***Would you say God is working in you? Can you think of times where God speaks the 'whatever it is' as if you already are instances like**

Abraham - Father of a nation... when his wife is barren and hope gone

Gideon - mighty warrior... when he's hiding in a hole

David - king of Israel, warrior, worshiper... when he's sitting on a hillside amongst sheep

Peter - A rock on which the church would be built... when he's still on his journey to denial

You're not yet but you will be.

He crafted you. He is crafting you. God is looking for one response...

Yes... Let your will be my will...

God has different assignments for each of us and we must be faithful to walk it out as he works it out in us.

Walk faithfully in the day to day before we long for the next big thing. (Devon - the stairs vs the elevator)

He must have his way in our heart before we can be useful in his hand.

**Discussion: Has he had his way in your heart? Are there areas where you are holding back? Think about this statement, "To not reveal Jesus you have to choose to hide him." How do you react or engage with this statement?*

Do you have the will to offer yourself for His missional call?