

Life on Mission
September 9, 2018
Lynn Haven UMC

Introduction

“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)

Our biblical directive has always been to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone. Why is this so important? Can't people just pick up the Bible and read for themselves? Why don't they just go to church and hear about Him themselves? Well, if everyone had a natural inclination to do these things our mission would be a lot easier wouldn't it? Meanwhile, in the real world ☺...God knew He would need to use us as His hands and feet to spread the word of the life-giving power that comes from believing in His great name. We should be bursting at the seams to tell everyone we meet about the eternal benefits of a life lived with Jesus. So how do we get going with such important work? This week we will discuss some prerequisites that must be met in order to begin living a life on mission.

Digging Deeper

We are able to live life on mission when we...

CARE about the lost.

- Have you ever gotten lost? Being lost sure is an uncomfortable, sometimes scary feeling. Being spiritually lost however, is eternally scary. What does it mean to be “spiritually lost”? Separated from Christ, eternal damnation, darkness, are a few things that come to mind. Does it bother you that some people are separated from Christ, living in darkness and may not get to spend eternity with Him? Does it bother you enough to say something about it? Remember, you can't look into the eyes of someone God does not love. Let that sink in for a minute. From the convicted felons to the people who annoy us with their loud chewing, He loves us all!
- How much time do you spend thinking about the ones who haven't been exposed to, or come to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior? What hope do they have? God's heart breaks for those who are lost and so should ours. Sadly, there are millions of people in our country alone that are unchurched and in need of salvation. When you stop and think about it, God loved us so much He sent His Son to die for us. The least we can do is tell folks about that. Amen?

DARE to reach the lost.

- Does the thought of losing ever stop you from starting something? If we never take a risk, our rewards will be few and far between. If we are talking about finances, well that would be one thing. But when we consider the effect of our inaction as it relates to lost souls, it becomes infinitely more important. What if you are the one person who could break through the hard candy shell of that stubborn (but deep down, seeking) friend of yours who just doesn't quite get what all the fuss is about this Jesus person? Is it worth it to try to help them get saved? What if it's the stranger on the street who might walk away thinking you're a weirdo, but picks up a Bible for the first time in their life because you sparked some kind of curiosity in them? What if that same person finally accepts Jesus into their hearts because of the seed you planted? Keep in mind, you may not ever get to eat

the fruit from the trees you plant, but plant them anyway cause God knows who is hungry! What risks do you take to make sure Jesus' name is heard?

SHARE with the lost.

- Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." He didn't just want to save them, he physically sought after them. Jesus didn't talk about how He wished He could do something, He suffered an agonizing death nailed to a cross to accomplish that. Quite simply, Love does. Now we don't all have to work to cure cancer or dig a well in Africa to do something to help others. Of course those things are noble and needed, but there is something much more achievable that we can all do. Right here. Right now. And that is to simply share. Take the time to tell someone about your personal experiences with God and how He has been (and is) at work in your life. Glorify Him for all He has given you. God calls us to tell others, not persuade or lead, just tell them about Him. (See Acts 1:8) We have to be ok with being a little vulnerable if we have any hope of digging past the barriers of cynicism and unbelief that have been erected in the hearts of a people who are "doing just fine the way they are, thank you very much." Do you know someone who could benefit from your witness? What is preventing you from opening a dialogue with them about God and what He means to you? Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Are you in it to win it for God?

Conclusion

Where should your evangelistic efforts begin? With those closest to you now. This is the approach we are going to take over the next few weeks as we embark upon this new sermon series called "Life on Mission." This is not a slick program of evangelism, it's a process of starting where we live and sharing the Good News in natural ways with those around us. Believers, be diligent as the work before us is literally a matter of life or death!

"But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God." (Acts 20:24 NLT)