

EVERYONE

Enjoy, Share, Love, Message, God, Everyone

February 9, 2020

This week we finish our six-week theme:

We exist to enjoy and share the love and message of God with everyone.

DAY 1: The Great Commission

1. Christianity is not just about creating “little Christs” as C. S. Lewis says. It is about using your life to help re-produce the life of Christ in others. Paradoxically, this is an important ingredient in our becoming more like Christ!)

2. Here are three different ways Jesus commanded His followers to engage with people in the world.

Matthew 28:18 (RSV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

3. What is the scope of His vision for His work? (Verse 19).

4. What is it we are to be about? (Verses 19, 20).

5. What help will we have in this mission? (Verses, 18, 20).

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

6. What is the scope of His vision for this work?

7. The word translated “preach” just means “to declare.” We usually think of “preaching” as something only the “professional” minister does, but this command is given to every Christian.

Luke 24:46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

8. What strikes you about this command in Luke?

9. What strikes you from the Great Commission?

DAY 2: For the nations

1. There are times when the prophet Isaiah gives us knowledge that's "behind the curtain." Isaiah 49 is a Messianic passage, letting us "eavesdrop" on a conversation between God the Father and Jesus hundreds of years prior to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Here is a snippet.

Isaiah 49:6 ...he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

2. We might have assumed that a Messiah born into the lineage of the Jewish patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Judah), and the kingly royal line of David would be a messiah for the Jewish people, only.

3. The Jewish leaders and people believed this to be true in Jesus' own time.

4. What they didn't expect was that the message of God was not just for the Jewish people! Who else is included in this outreach? (Verse 6).

5. And the message is not just for Jew and Gentile. Its scope is "to the ends of the earth!"

6. Here is another interaction between God the Father and Jesus, His Son.

Psalm 2:8 Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

7. Here, God invites Jesus to take Him up on an astounding offer! What is it?

8. The mission of Jesus would be to reveal the wonder of who God is to sinful people. Their hope was that sinful, rebellious creatures could be redeemed, not just in Israel, but all around the world!

9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: Initiative

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

1. Jesus describes His purpose in one sentence. What was important to Him?
2. How did He view people?
3. What was their need?
4. What was His attitude toward lost people?
5. When you hear Jesus say He came to seek ... the lost, what strikes you about that?
6. Who are some lost people you know?
7. What is your attitude toward them?
8. Do you see their need?
9. What are some ways you can take the initiative to see them?

DAY 4: Your “neighbor”

Luke 10:25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

1. This was a very religious man. What becomes apparent is that he wants to impress Jesus with his knowledge about the bible.

2. His question assumes that there is something he can do to earn or inherit eternal life.

3. Instead of “answering” the man’s question, Jesus begins the process of having him think it through. Jesus asks the man what the bible says about the subject.

4. The man gives an answer that sounds right. One problem. No one can do perfectly love God and their neighbor. The man assumes that just wanting to do that is good enough.

5. Jesus “encourages” him to try that. The man balks. He throws up an excuse: “Who is my neighbor?”

6. Jesus answers with the parable of the Good Samaritan. While two highly religious men walk by a man in desperate need of medical help, the Good Samaritan gets the man to an inn where he can get aid and help. The Samaritan pays for his expenses.

7. When the parable is over, Jesus asks the man, “Who was the neighbor?” a reference back to the second command, to love your neighbor as yourself.

8. It is not enough to “know” the right answers—to love our neighbor. We are commanded to action, not knowledge!

9. Our “neighbors” are the people God puts around us—at work, at play, in our neighborhood, etc.

10. You are God’s representative, on mission, to share the love and message with people.

DAY 5: HEAVEN

1. Isaiah prophesied about seven hundred and fifty years before Christ's ministry. Isaiah was given a vision of the end of human history.

Isaiah 2:2 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

2. What will be happening in the last days?

3. Who will be involved?

4. The book of Revelation gives us several linguistic "videos" of heaven.

Revelation 15:3 ...and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. ⁴ Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

5. The people in heaven are singing important songs. (In heaven, people sing, not because they are supposed to but because they want to).

6. What is the central idea of their songs?

7. Who are the people that are singing? (Verse 4)

Revelation 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

³ *No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.*

⁴ *They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.*

⁵ *There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

8. John sees the New Jerusalem. What strikes you about the New Jerusalem (heaven)?

9. Who are the residents? Where are the residents from? (Verse 2) What is their identity? (Verses 3, 4)

10. God's mission involves "everyone." Everyone matters to God, and everyone is to matter to us!