

Theme: Our mission includes both evangelism and mercy ministry, meeting both the spiritual and physical needs of people.

I. Intro - What Is the Mission?

- A. Dilbert - often worked with no idea of what they were trying to accomplish
- B. Business world was far too often that way
- C. Many in the church are confused about what we are supposed to be doing - what is our mission?
- D. Three views on mission (John Stott)
 - 1. Traditional – Mission = Evangelism
 - 2. Modern – Mission = Social Action/Mercy ministry
 - 3. Biblically Integrated – Mission = Both Evangelism & Mercy Ministry
- E. Thankfully we are not led by pointy haired boss!
- F. What is the mission Jesus gave to us?

II. Jesus' Message, Method, and Call

- A. The beginning of Jesus' ministry
 - 1. Our two texts show the beginning of Jesus' ministry
 - 2. Luke gives the first sermon of Jesus
 - 3. Mark gives a summary of Jesus preaching
 - 4. Together they show Jesus' message, method, call

B. Jesus' Message - the Gospel of the Kingdom

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, **proclaiming the good news** of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. **"The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"** Mark 1:14–15

- 1. Jesus came proclaiming - he preached
- 2. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel - good news
- 3. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom - God rules over all
- 4. Jesus specifically called for repentance and faith
- 5. The primary focus of Jesus' words was the Gospel

C. Jesus' method: ministry to the whole man

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to **preach good news** to the **poor**. He has sent me to **proclaim** freedom for the **prisoners** and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to release the **oppressed**, ¹⁹ to **proclaim the year of the Lord's favor**." Luke 4:18–19

- 1. Preach, proclaim (2x) - Good News; Lord's favor
- 2. Same focus as in Mark - preach the Gospel
- 3. Specific call to the poor, prisoners, blind, oppressed
 - a. Includes spiritually poor, trapped, blind, oppressed
 - b. But also the physically poor, imprisoned, etc.!!!
- 4. Jesus' ministry included proclaiming the Gospel to the spiritually poor, sick and oppressed and also meeting the physical needs of the people.

5. The mission of Jesus included proclaiming the good news and doing good works, both evangelism and mercy ministry - and so should ours.

III. Work Of Mission - Evangelism & Mercy Ministry

A. The work of mission - evangelism

1. Jesus calls us to preach the Gospel as He did
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."
Luke 24:46–47
 - a. We are called to preach & call people to repentance
 - b. This is the message of the Old Testament
 - c. It is the final crescendo of Luke's GospelTherefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19–20
 - a. This is 'spiritual ministry' - disciple, baptize, teach
 - b. We teach like Jesus did - and what He taught!
2. This is essential - for there is no other way to salvation
Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12
 - a. Salvation is impossible apart from faith in Christ
 - b. Therefore we must proclaim the Gospel about Him!
3. We must proclaim the Gospel of Christ, for there are lost all around us who will perish apart from the good news.

4. The church must proclaim the Gospel to the billions who have not yet heard, so that they can hear, respond, and receive life.
5. This is unpopular today, but we are not called to popularity but faithfulness. Woe to us if we do not proclaim Christ!

B. We are called to minister to the poor and suffering

1. We are commanded to care for the poor & suffering
Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27
 - a. God commands us to do this - not an option
 - b. A faith that does not care for the suffering is a deformed faith, unworthy of our kind God.
2. The example of Jesus calls us to mercy ministry
Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21
 - a. We are not just sent - we are sent as Jesus was
 - b. He did not just preach - he relived suffering
 - c. He did not send a message; He incarnated and came to us - and we must do the same.
3. Mercy ministry opens doors for the Gospel
In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16
 - a. Good deeds can open the door for the Gospel
 - b. Jesus met physical needs and used that to open the door for the Gospel of the kingdom - and we should do the same

c. Effectiveness of good works - Julian the Apostate

“Nothing has so contributed to the progress of these Christians as their charity to strangers. The impious Galileans provide not only for their own but for ours as well.” Julian the Apostate, Roman Emperor, 4th Century A.D.

C. Example: The McClures in Cambodia

1. We just heard an example of this last week
2. Karen McClure - mercy ministry of medical work
3. Steve McClure - training pastors/church planters
4. Mercy ministry usually is the way to open the door for Gospel ministry
5. The same could be said of Bombay Teen Challenge, the McAlhaney's and others
6. Globally the people with least access to the Gospel are also among the most poor and suffering as well - so the two ministries reach the same people.

IV. The Mission: Applying the Word

A. Do we see the need for holistic ministry?

1. We are not Gnostic - God made both body & soul
2. Jesus ministered to both body and soul - and calls us to the same
3. People often will not respond to the Gospel unless we address other needs as well
4. Often these two types have been separated
5. We must devote ourselves to both, and do so locally and abroad

B. Am I personally involved in mercy ministry?

1. It is good and right for us to give to mercy ministries
2. But we also need to be personally involved
3. All of us are called to act as Good Samaritans in life's journey
4. But this will come at a cost - it is inconvenient, and we may be used
5. How am I personally serving in mercy ministry?
 - a. If I am not - look at opportunities in BRCC
 1. Small group serving at Lighthouse Shelter
 2. Small group serving at detention center
 3. Winter Relief
 4. Short term mission trips
 - b. Just open our eyes - needs all around us

C. The ultimate need - The Gospel

1. But we do not stop with mercy ministry
2. Only the Gospel of Christ can save!
3. We must preach the Gospel to ourselves daily - and then share this Good News with others
4. This is not work for preachers and missionaries - all believers are called to share the simple good news
5. Am I praying for opportunities to share the Gospel?
6. Am I looking for opportunities to share the Gospel?

D. The Table of Mercy - food for body and soul

1. We come to this Table for food - for body and soul
2. The ultimate need for the mercy of God is fed here
3. Come and receive - and then go and share!

The Work of Mission: Evangelism and Mercy Ministry

Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:18-19

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Communion

2 John 1:3

Teaching keywords: Evangelism & missions; mercy ministry; great commission; kingdom of God; salvation and deliverance; gospel

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love. 2 John 1:3

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