

Theme: The Church is the beautiful community of those blessed by the Trinity and sent forth to spread the blessing of God throughout the earth.

I. J. Paul Getty - All the Money in the World

- A. Movie about kidnapping of Getty's grandson JP Getty III
- B. JP Getty was richest man in world; refused ransom!
- C. Eventually, ear arrived in an envelope; agreed to \$2.2 million - most he could deduct on his tax return; loaned rest to his son at 4% interest!
- D. Later revealed he berated his wife for spending money to treat a brain tumor that had blinded one of his sons!
- E. How do we handle the blessings we have been given?
- F. What does the life of the Trinity teach us about this?

II. The Trinity and Mission

- A. This passage is built upon the Trinity
Again **Jesus** said, "Peace be with you! As the **Father** has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the **Holy Spirit**." John 20:21-22
 - 1. Yet another passage built upon the Trinity
 - 2. By now it should be apparent that every aspect of the existence, life, and mission of the Church is Trinitarian.
 - 3. We were created by the Trinity, in the image of the Trinity, reconciled and redeemed by the work of the Trinity, exist as a Church by the plan and life of the Trinity, and will spend eternity growing in our knowledge, service, and worship of the Trinity.

- 4. Our God is the Holy Trinity - Father Son, and Holy Spirit - and He is the foundation and source of all reality. To deny, ignore, or minimize the Trinity is to embrace a wildly distorted view of reality.

B. A passage about the ministry of the Church

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" John 20:21

- 1. Jesus is speaking on the day of the resurrection, having completed the mission for which He came to earth.
- 2. The Risen Christ is here commissioning His disciples to carry on His ministry.
- 3. As the Father sent me, I am sending you
 - a. Our mission is based on the mission of Jesus
 - b. Our mission is not an optional add on - it is the very heartbeat of why the Church exists
 - c. Our mission is modeled upon and an extension of the ministry of Christ in the earth.

III. The Trinitarian Mission of the Church

- A. The mission of the Church is an overflow of the life and action of the Trinity
Again **Jesus** said, "Peace be with you! As the **Father** has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the **Holy Spirit**." John 20:21-22
 - 1. As the Father sent the Son, so the Son sends the Spirit and sends us on mission
 - 2. John's account of the mission of the Church shows us that our ministry is an overflow of the life and activity of the Trinity.

3. The Father so loves the world He sent the Son,
Who so loves the world He sends the Spirit to us
and sends us forth on mission.

B. We are empowered by the Spirit for the mission

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² **And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**
John 20:21–22

1. Jesus commissions His followers and then immediately gives them the Spirit.
2. His final night He spent a lot of time talking with the disciples about the coming of the Spirit and how He would be at work in and through them.
3. The mission we have been given is far greater than we could accomplish on our own strength, but we are given the Spirit to empower us to go forth and fulfill God's call for His people.

C. Our mission is a continuation of the mission of Jesus

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! **As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**" ²² **And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**
John 20:21–22

1. As the Father sent me, I am sending you - a continuation of the mission of Jesus
2. Jesus was anointed with the Spirit for His mission, and so we are given the Spirit to continue the mission.
3. Obviously, we can not die for the sins of the world, but our mission is defined by the mission of Jesus and is a continuation of His mission on the earth.

D. Our mission is primarily to spread the Gospel

If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. John 20:23

1. The mission on which we are sent primarily deals with the forgiveness of sins.
2. This is not a statement that we get to decide who is forgiven - thank God for that!
3. We proclaim the Gospel - repent and believe and your sins will be forgiven; if you refuse your sins will remain on you.
4. This of course is why Jesus came - to live, die, and be raised so that our sins might be forgiven. This was His mission and we are sent forth to proclaim that He has done all of this.
5. The proclamation of the Gospel must always be the first and foundational mission of the Church. A church that no longer proclaims the Gospel found in Scripture has ceased to be a church.

E. Our mission is also to minister to the physical needs of people (mercy ministry)

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. This is the text Jesus used to announce the beginning of the public phase of His mission.
2. The mission of Jesus included feeding the poor, healing the sick, freeing the captive, and this mission must be continued by the church.

3. The external, visible, physical actions were pointers to the identity of Jesus as the Messiah coming to save us.
4. When the church serves the poor and marginalized, when we stand against injustice, these actions give testimony to the truth of the Gospel.
If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:17–18
5. A church that does not minister to the physical needs of people has a truncated vision of its mission and will undermine the spread of the Gospel.

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I have a Trinitarian view of life and the Church?
 1. This whole series is meant to expand our view of life and the Church as being essentially Trinitarian
 2. The Trinity - The Divine community - life is relational
 3. The Trinity - the One and the many, unity and diversity - we must expect and embrace both
 4. The Trinity - overflowing beauty, love, blessing - this should be our focus and define our approach to life
 5. A life and Church modeled after the Trinity - in contrast to the increasing ugliness evident all around us
 6. In my sin, I am always tempted to reject the Trinity - to flee to either uniformity or chaos rather than unity and diversity

7. In my sin, I am always tempted to reject the Trinity - to let something other than God's character of holiness, love, and integrity define my relationships
8. In my sin, I am always tempted to want a church that reflects me and my preferences rather than the beautiful diversity God intends to be a reflection of the Trinity
9. I have not exhausted this topic - think deeply and look for this in Scripture and it will continue to mold your thoughts and desires

- B. We are sent on mission - blessed to be a blessing
 1. The Trinity is so glorious and blessed that creation spilled forth as the overflow.
 2. Trinitarian life and blessing is always on mission to spread the blessing
 3. The blessing of the Trinity has overflowed into my life and BRCC - and it needs to flow through us to the world around us
 4. This year makes it easy to withdraw into myself, to build walls, to respond in anger, suspicion, or fear. But we are to be the church on mission to spread God's blessing around.
 5. Let's join together to be a blessing - in prayer, in personal relationships, in serving our community

- C. A prayer for the church on mission

The Community - Mission

John 20:21-23

August 9, 2020

Prayer

Psalm 67:1-2, 5-7

Teaching keywords: Church; Trinity; evangelism and missions; mercy and mercy ministry; blessing

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, ² that His ways may be known on earth, His salvation among all nations... ⁵ May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. ⁶ O God, our God, bless us so that all the ends of the earth will fear You. Ps 67:1–2, 5–7

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