



The Church - God's People On Mission Together

Key idea:

The Church has been given the Spirit to empower us to be on mission together, taking the Gospel forth and displaying the love of God to others from our location to the ends of the earth.

Key text:

Luke 4:16–19

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸“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 24:45–49

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Key points:

1. The entire story written by Luke in his Gospel and the book of Acts highlights the call of God’s people to be filled and empowered by the Spirit to take the Gospel forth to all the world.
2. We must be empowered by the Holy Spirit for the mission God has given to the Church.
3. We are primarily empowered by the Spirit to proclaim the Gospel so that people might repent and believe and be forgiven of their sins.
4. We are secondarily empowered by the Spirit to meet the physical needs of people, thus fulfilling God’s call to minister to the whole person and love our neighbor.

5. We are empowered by the Spirit to be part of God's mission locally and globally.
6. We are all called to be parts of God's mission as we pray, give, and serve together.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why did Jesus need to be anointed with the Spirit to fulfill His mission? What does this tell me regarding my own need to be filled, anointed, and empowered by the Spirit?
3. Why can't the Church fulfill the mission of God apart from the power of the Spirit? What is it about our mission and the current state of humanity that requires the empowerment of the Spirit?
4. Why is the call to proclaim the Gospel central to the mission of the Church? Why can't the Church mainly focus on meeting the physical, social, and financial needs of people and the community?
5. If proclaiming the Gospel is central to the mission God has given BRCC, how do we fulfill this call? What does this look like in practice? What does it require of us when we gather for worship? What does it require of each of us in our personal lives?
6. Why is it important for a local church to be involved in meeting the physical, social, and financial needs of people as well? What does the continuity of God's work in creation and redemption lead me to expect regarding the mission of the Church?
7. Why must a local church be involved both locally and globally in God's mission? What happens if a church is only involved in the local area? What happens if a church is only involved in faraway lands but it is not part of God's mission?
8. When I consider the three primary ways of being part of God's mission - prayer, giving, and personally serving - which is my greatest strength? Where do I need to grow?
9. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?