

God's Mission

1. 2 Peter 3:8-9 -- God desires that no one should perish, but that all would come to repentance.
 - But how will this happen?
 - By people joining the redeemed people of God.
 - But how?

2. 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 -- God is reconciling the world to himself.
 - God has committed this message and ministry of reconciliation to us!
 - We are ambassadors for Christ, imploring people on Christ's behalf to be reconciled to God, as though God himself was appealing through us! (20)

3. Jesus teaches these same things -- Matthew 28:16-20.

4. So what are we to do? Make disciples and carry out the ministry of reconciliation.
 - According to Jesus, we are to teach others to obey and to baptize them.
 - According to Paul, we are to deliver the message that God has taken away the separating sin for those who are in Christ, thereby reconciling people to himself.
 - *This is the gospel: from creation, to confusion, to correction, and completion. God's mission involves us, working with others between correction and completion.*
 - But how did Jesus and Paul do these things?

5. Jesus spent time with people...especially with those who were left out of the "religious" circles--sinners and tax collectors.

- Jesus no doubt spent time in the temple, but these times are not recorded.
- If Jesus wanted to emphasize temple worship and practice, he could have done so. But he didn't. He emphasized his missional ministry *to* others.

6. Paul described himself as acting like a father and a mother to the Thessalonian believers, and ministered in very personal ways to the Corinthians believers.

- The descriptions of his ministry imply close, personal work (1 Thess. 2:7-12).
- He uses the idea of opening wide his heart and not withholding his affection, which are relational words (2 Cor. 6:3-13).

7. The only way to do this reconciling, discipleship ministry is through time with others, specifically others who do not know Jesus.

- "But I don't have enough time! And I serve the church." Sometimes "church" gets in the way. Serving God and serving the church *can* be different things. We need to serve God.
- Get started by praying: pray for opportunities, pray for others. Then, just build and deepen your relationships. Let God lead you. We should be completely sold out for and sold on God's mission.
- Do not let anything, even things that look "good," get in the way of serving God on God's mission!

8. Do you want to go through the motions of faith, or do you want a life of meaning? Give yourself to God's mission and get on his mission.

- Go next door or across the street and engage with a neighbor. Introduce yourself if you need to!
- Eat lunch with a coworker you don't know well.
- Volunteer somewhere with an emphasis on meeting people.

- Look to bless people (randomly).
- Take a walk and be open to the possibilities that may arise.