

“Good News”

Matthew 4, 9, & 28

- Q: Why are we here? As individuals...as a church?
- **“Without careful attention, faith based organizations drift from their founding mission. It’s that simple. It will happen.”** - “Mission Drift” (Peter Greer & Chris Horst)
- Our in broad terms: **“You have been blessed in order to be a blessing!** [Gen 12.1-2]
- The NT gives fuller clarity on the mission: Jesus’ instructions & example
- When Jesus sent out ‘the 12’ - [Matt 10.8] what did they receive that they ***freely give.***” 1) help those who suffer 2) Preach the message about the kingdom (**do** something & **say** something)

REVIEW:

- We are called to be a restorative blessing in the world through **goodness, good deeds**, but also...sharing the **good news!**

Central to the mission is a message

Big Idea: Be a restorative blessing with Good News like Jesus

- The Good News - is what saves! [Rom 1.16; 10.13-14], but notice how they are linked:
 - **Without goodness - no one will trust the soul-saving message.**
 - **Without good deeds - no one will care about the soul-saving message**
 - **Without goodnews - no one will know the soul-saving message.**
- To be a restorative blessing like Jesus > look at Jesus’ example and instructions [Matt 4,9,28]
- **Q: How to be a restorative blessing in the world by embracing Jesus’ mission?**

1. Know the mission [Mt 4]

- **Matt 4.1-11** Temptations: Models **Restoring with Goodness** (integrity)
- **Matt 4.23-25** Models: **Restoring w Good Deeds.** (Serving with goal to restore well-being)
- But central to Jesus’ mission was also a message.
Let’s examine 3 verses from Matt 4 with 6 observations:

Matt 4.17 ...Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- **1: Jesus’ mission message involves telling people that “God has come near in the person of Jesus.”**
 - People need to know: there’s a god, he has not abandoned us, the way to him is through Jesus.
- **2: Jesus’ mission message calls for a response (*repent*)**
 - Parallel in Mark 1.15 ***“repent and believe in the gospel.”***

Matt 4.23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

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- **3: Jesus' mission message is good news!**
- **4: Jesus' mission message is accompanied by goodness and good deeds.**

Matt 4.19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- **5: Jesus' mission message is transmitted through relationships**
- **6: Jesus' mission message is holistically integrated into life**

- **TRX:** Taking this message to the world is BIG. Where to begin. ...

Matt 9.35-38 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- **1:** Same summary of Jesus ministry: *proclaiming the gospel ...and healing ... every affliction...* (Good deeds + good news)
- **2:** Same motivation *he had compassion for them*

- **3** Needs were so great that he asks his followers to pray!**

2. Pray the mission [Mt 9.35-38]

- The focus of his call to prayer:
NOT: pray that the people's spiritual and physical needs would be met
NOT: pray for change of circumstances
BUT: *pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*
- **Pray that more of Jesus' followers would actually get engaged in the mission!**
(Pray that more of the people in the pews would go out into the harvest and 1) alleviate human affliction and 2) proclaim the good news about Jesus.)

- Final passage (end of Jesus' ministry:) Matt 28.18-20

Matthew 28.18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- Jesus: "You have been praying that God would raise up more people to engage in the mission...your prayers have been answered. It's you!"
- **"So what comes to your mind when you think about Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations? Many read these words as if they were meant to inspire pastors or missionaries on their way out to the mission field. But have you ever considered that maybe Jesus' command is meant for you?" -Francis Chan (Multiply)**

3. Be the Mission [Mt 28]

- **Q:** Are there significant areas of your life that have nothing to do with the mission?
Q: Is there any part of your life working against the mission?

CHALLENGE: Show & Tell