

Wil Owens

Jesus on Mission; Matthew 9:35-10:5a

GPBC

6.23.19

Introduction – When we think about the subject of gospel missions and the book of Matthew, we usually think of the Great Commission passage of Matthew 28. But missions is not put on hold until after the Resurrection or until the final verses of Matthew. Missions and being sent out occurs right in the middle of Jesus' ministry, in the first third of Matthew's gospel. Missions is generally understood as when someone crosses into another culture, enters into a foreign context, for the purpose of sharing the gospel of Christ.

But there is also the more general understanding of being on mission, which means taking the gospel with you wherever you go, whether that be across the street or across the Atlantic. Here in today's passage we find Jesus on mission and in ch10 He will be sending His disciples on mission. So there are lessons for us on how to be gospel witnesses right here at home. However, our text also lends itself to the application of missions as well. So whether we stay home and live on mission or if we cross culture and language barriers to take the gospel abroad, there is a message here for every single believer.

- I. Jesus as our Example for Missions (v35)
 - a. V35 is Matthew's summary statement of Jesus' ministry. This is Jesus on mission. It's not the first time Matthew has used this summary. 4:23. So we're beginning to see a sub-structure of Matthew's gospel with this summary statement. The macro structure of Matthew's gospel consists of 5 narrative and teaching sections, by which you can easily divide this gospel. Narrative-teaching, narrative-teaching, narrative-teaching, and so forth.
 - i. This summary statement is a sort of micro structure. After 4:23, Matthew then demonstrates the teaching and the healing ministry of Jesus. Now after it occurs again in 9:35, Matthew will demonstrate how the disciples of Jesus are called and commissioned to follow the same pattern of ministry that Jesus exemplifies.
 - b. First – Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages. The gospel is to be heralded and proclaimed to all – the crowds in the cities and

the few in the villages. The haves and the have nots. The rich and the poor. The power players and the day laborers. The city dwellers and the country folk. Jesus left no one out when He was on mission.

- c. Second – note again the threefold ministry of Jesus: teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and healing.
 - i. Teaching in the synagogues – truth must be proclaimed, or it will not be heard. Truth must be taught, or it will be lost. Doctrine and theology and biblical truth must be heralded, or it will be discarded.
 1. The teaching of truth is essential if it is to be heard, if it is to be embraced and believed, and if it is to set us free!
 2. And notice that it begins in the houses of worship. We must first know the truth in the church if we are ever to engage the world around us with the truth. We must first defend the truth in the church if we are ever to stand for the truth in the world.
 3. Sometimes the church will rejoice in the truth and sometimes the church will despise the truth. Luke 4:22,28-29
 4. No matter the reception, may the truth be taught at GPBC!
 - ii. Proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom – preaching, heralding the good news. Teach the truth of Scripture and proclaim the gospel. You see the one leads right to the other!
 1. If you teach the truth, you will teach the holiness and greatness of God, the promises and faithfulness of God, the righteousness of God, and you will teach the fallenness of man, the inadequacy of man, the sinfulness of man, the insufficiency of religion and works, the pride of man, the incapability of the world to solve man's deepest problems – all of which will lead the unbeliever with open ears to ask, "Then what must I do to be saved?" All of which will lead the believer to ask, "Then how can I live to glorify the Lord?" The teaching of truth sets the stage for the proclamation of the gospel.
 2. 1 Cor 15:1-4

iii. Healing every disease and every affliction – Jesus touched the outcast, the lowly, the unfortunate, the untouchable. We don't have the gift of healing today, but we can touch people and meet needs and share the love of Jesus.

1. You see just as teaching truth sets the stage for the gospel, meeting needs opens hearts to the gospel. Most of the time when Jesus would heal the body, He would heal the soul.
2. People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.
3. Build relationships and make friends with unbelievers, invite those who are apart from the Lord over for dinner, spend time with people over coffee, reach out to those who need a helping hand – and God will open hearts and open doors for us to share the gospel.

d. Notice Jesus didn't just teach truth and proclaim the gospel, and He didn't just meet people's needs – He did both. If you have one without the other, you don't have gospel ministry. Just teaching and preaching neglects people's needs and suffering, and just attending to people's needs and suffering neglects their greatest need.

e. Make time for ministry. Let's follow Jesus on mission.

II. Compassion at the Heart of Missions (v36)

- a. Harassed by sin and the world and the flesh. Oh how much fun and free it seems on Instagram to live for yourself with no thought for God. But the truth is not as made up as the story on Instagram. Twitter is not the real world. The truth is that sin does not free, it blinds and it binds. The truth is that sin turns quickly from fun to destruction. The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The world around us, beginning right here in Grassy Pond and all the way to Africa where some of us will be this fall, is filled with people who are harassed.
- b. Helpless – helpless to change, helpless to get out of their situation, helpless to save themselves, helpless to be freed from the sin that enslaves them.

- c. What they need is a shepherd. What they need is for someone to step into their lives and lead them to the Fountain of Life! What they need is a shepherd.
- d. What we need is compassion. We need to be broken and burdened that our loved ones are lost without Christ. We need to stop trying to convince ourselves that our lost loved ones are right with God and start praying for their souls and intervening in their lives.
 - i. Joshuaproject.net – identified 17,000 people groups around the world. Of those 17,000 people groups, 7,000 are classified as unreached, meaning they do not have enough followers of Christ or resources to evangelize their own people. For them to be won, many of us will have to go! Those 7,000 people groups represent 41% of the total population. Of the 7.6 billion people inhabiting this planet, 3.2 billion are unreached.
 - ii. Muslims and Hindus and Buddhists and Communists are dying by the thousands every single day without ever having heard the Gospel!
 - iii. If the Lord would fill us with compassion for others and for their souls, only God knows the eternal impact for the kingdom that could be made right here at GPBC!
- e. I thank God for all we are doing, but there's more to be done!

III. A Prayer for Missions (vv37-38)

- a. The reason why there are 7,000 unreached people groups today is not because the Word of God returns empty. It's because we're not sending it out. It's not because people won't respond to the gospel. Many will respond to the gospel. It's because they haven't heard, no one has told them. Jesus didn't say pray for the Word and pray for salvations. God's got that! Jesus said pray for laborers.
- b. Rom 10: How can they believe if they never hear? How can they hear if no one preaches? How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!

IV. An Answer to Prayer for Missions (vv1-5)

- a. He called them. He equipped them. Then He sent them. They were the answer to their own prayer!

- b. If we get serious about people who are apart from Christ, if we get serious about people harassed by sin and helpless apart from the gospel, if we get to praying – Jesus will get to sending!

Conclusion