

RCMI L-Path Teaching
May 29, 2022

TITLE: THE MISSION TO PREACH

TEXT: Luke 4:42-44

Big Idea: Jesus' mission is to preach the Kingdom of God to all nations, and He commissioned us to do likewise!

Intro:

- When Jesus was sent to earth, He was on a mission. It's essential to live our own life's mission and purpose.
- As a church, we exist to be a light that will draw men to Jesus Christ, and the same task applies to every follower of Jesus Christ. [Mark 16:15]
- *"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."* — John Keith Falconer
- A small light can make a big difference out in the dark world rather than inside a lighted church.
- *"The church is not only a place that would draw people in but a movement that sends disciples out."* -Reggie Castaneda.
- Jesus has a mission to proclaim the gospel of God's kingdom, so He will go and make that a reality. [Luke 4: 42-44, NIV]
- *"At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him, and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also because that is why I was sent."⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea."* -Luke 4: 42-44, NIV
- Paul said, "Follow me as I follow Christ!" The passion of Jesus is to seek and save the lost; as faithful followers, let it be our passion as well.

I. His Divine Priority [v.42]

A. Prayer First

- *"At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place."* [Luke 4:42 a]
- If you look at the same story in Mark 1:35, it says Jesus went off to a solitary place where he prayed. Jesus knew the value of solitude with God the Father.
- The great work that Jesus did in His ministry did not draw on the resource of His divine nature but through His constant communion with God the Father and His empowering by God the Holy Spirit.
- Here's what we see: Jesus' mission starts with prayer.
- Jesus starts his day with prayer: prayer is his first choice, not his last resort.
- Prayer isn't an excuse for inaction, but it's the foundation of gospel action.
- *"Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work."* — A.B. Simpson.

B. The Call Is To Go, Not Stay

- *“The people were looking for him, and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.”* – Luke 4: 42b
- The people of Capernaum wanted Jesus for themselves. It could seem reasonable, but if you look closely, keeping Jesus from going means they’re missing the whole point of the movement of the kingdom of God.
- The people of Capernaum wanted him to stay because He was healing people; they wanted their Way Maker, Miracle Worker, and Savior who could do anything they needed. [Luke 4:40] They couldn’t see the bigger picture of God’s Kingdom advancing here — all they see is an opportunity for their benefit.
- I find that we can be the same way often. We love the blessings of God, but we don’t always enjoy His mission.
- When the gospel transforms us, it immediately takes our focus off ourselves and puts it out there. Paul describes it in 2 Cor. 5: 18-20.
- *“The church, which is not a missionary church, will be a missing church when Jesus comes.”* - F.B. Meyer.
- When you only want the benefits and not the task, you miss the Savior!
- *“But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also because that is why I was sent.”* - Luke 4: 43

II. His Divine Purpose [v.43]

A. Jesus Knew His Divine Purpose

- *“I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.”* At this point, Jesus saw His main ministry as preaching the kingdom. Miracles were a part of that work but not His primary focus. [Luke 4: 18-19]
- This is his purpose; He came for this very reason: to preach the good news of the kingdom of God.
- Jesus only cares about one thing, proclaiming the Good News. He says He was sent for this divine purpose; he understands why he is here.

B. Understanding Your Divine Purpose Enables You To Stay Focused

- If you know *why* you do something, it changes the reality of what you’ll put up with. When you come to grips with your divine purpose, you’ll be able to overcome difficult moments because you’re aware of your goal.
- The message of the kingdom of God is central to Jesus. The kingdom of God is simply this: God is on His throne, and His reign has now come to earth. In Jesus, we see a new ruler present, the rules have changed, and all authority bends to Him. This ruler will come back and fix all things in the created order.

- We have the assurance that Jesus will win, but we still have a mission to accomplish, and there are orders we need to obey, such as taking the gospel to every nation, tribe, and tongue.
- Here at the very end, this little transition sentence the divine pattern of Jesus. *“And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.”* -Luke 4:44

III. His Divine Pattern [v.44]

- Jesus saw His main ministry as **preaching the kingdom**. Miracles were a part of that work but not His primary focus.
- Preaching and teaching play a prominent role in our ministry. The gospel demands that we speak; you don't have to say it perfectly, nor do you have to be a professional theologian, but we are called to proclaim the kingdom of God. Paul puts it in Romans 10: 14- 15.
- *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”* - Rom. 10: 14-15
- As followers of Christ, we must bring the gospel to all people, teaching the good news of Jesus' reign.
- We should naturally be moving in the direction of going with the Gospel. Jesus describes our mission in John 20:21 this way, *“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”* Jesus was sent to proclaim the kingdom of God; we are sent with the same purpose.

CHALLENGE: Jesus' mission is to preach the Kingdom of God to all nations, and He commissioned us to do likewise!

- *"The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity."* - Mike Stachura. Here is the divine pattern we can adopt in Luke 10: 2-3.
- *“Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.”* - Luke 10: 2-3, NKJV
- **Pray, Send & Go!**
- Jesus does the same thing here; he starts the ministry with prayer, he says he was sent from the Father, and then he goes with the Gospel.

DISCUSSION:

- Describe the priority of Jesus. Share
- What's your priority? Your comfort or His glory?
- Describe the divine purpose of Jesus that kept Him focused.
- What about you? Have you discovered your purpose in life?

- What is the divine pattern of Jesus that you can follow? Share.