

# Sermon Study Guide

Pastor: Dr. Henry Schorr

Date: April 16/17'16

## THE MAIN THING: The CHURCH: Loving Others

Jesus accomplished God's mission on earth. He did what His Father told Him, lived a holy, God-pleasing life, worked with a small group and loved others sacrificially. His church is a 'new community' that loves others as Jesus did.

## PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. Share a time when someone loved you in a very practical way.
2. What experience have you ever had with being lost yourself, or having someone you love being lost?

## PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. Pastor Henry commented that God has a 'supreme reason' for us as Christ-followers to be on earth. According to Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Peter 3:9; Psalm 138:8 and Prov 19:21; 1 Timothy 2:3-4 what is that 'supreme reason'?
2. Reconsider the supreme focus of Jesus' life from the following verses: John 5:30; Matt 28:18; Luke 6:12-16; Matt 20:28; Luke 2:49
3. How did the early Jerusalem church (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37) demonstrate their love for others? In what ways did they live out Matthew 22:39?
4. As you ponder these scriptural concepts, how does God work through individuals as a part of the larger church to reach His 'missing kids and lost children'?

## PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community as you live out your calling.*

1. Is there an aspect of Jesus' life that God is currently calling you to imitate more faithfully? Elaborate. What steps can you take now to implement this in your life?
2. Pastor Henry gave several examples of showing sacrificial love to other people. Which one did you relate to? Why? Share other experiences where God has prompted you to show love.
3. Who are the people in your life for whom you have a burden? Ask your group to pray with you for them.

## THE WORD (NIV)

### **Psalm 138:8**

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, LORD, endures forever—do not abandon the works of your hands.

### **Proverbs 19:21**

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

### **Matthew 20:28**

<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." **22:39**... And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself... **28:18-20**... Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### **Luke 2:49**

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"... **6:12-16** <sup>12</sup> One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. <sup>13</sup> When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: <sup>14</sup> Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup> Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup> Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

### **Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved... (4:32-37)

### **John 5:30**

<sup>30</sup> By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

### **1 Timothy 2:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

### **2 Peter 3:9**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

# Sermon Study Summary

Do you ever ask, “God, why have you left me here and not taken me to heaven?” If you do not call yourself a Christ-follower, it is because God still pursues you to come to Him, not wanting you to perish. (2 Pt 3:9) Christ-followers are here to be God's representatives to accomplish His purpose. (Ps 138:8, Pr 19:21) Our challenge is to live all out for Jesus NOW, to be the light and witness He called us to be. (Mt 5:14, Acts 1:8) Sadly it is possible to pursue GOOD things while neglecting the MOST IMPORTANT thing for which God created us: relationships with Him and with people He brings into our lives. (Mt 22:37-39) God has been on mission to restore people to Himself, to make them spiritually alive. So He sent Jesus to be the WAY (by His death and resurrection) to reconcile us to God. (Lk 19:10) Day by day Jesus lived a purposeful, focused life to bring people to God and to love them. Jesus sends us on the same mission. (Mt 28:19; Jn 20:21) The supreme reason we are still here is to introduce people to Jesus. (1 Tim 2:3-4)

## How did Jesus accomplish the mission God had given Him?

1. Jesus did only what His heavenly Father told Him to do. He lived every day in total dependence on God to direct His steps, to empower Him for His daily assignments. (Jn 5:30) So we as His followers are to live in total dependence on Him. God calls us to MORE than not sinning and MORE than attending worship services, though those are important. The key to total dependence is cultivating our friendship with God by hearing Him speak through Scripture or His whispers, by daily surrender and response to Him in prayer, by talking to Jesus about those who need Him. Have ears tuned to the Lord's leading, eyes open to see where He is at work, hearts burdened for others, hands open and available to serve as He directs. Nothing we do in His name is done in vain, though we may not see the results. (1 Cor 15:58) Be faithful and believe that God will use your obedience to make an eternal difference.

2. Jesus lived a holy, God-pleasing life. (Mt 3:17) People grow weary of words and ideas but they cannot argue with a life well-lived, life that is 'salt' and 'light'. (Mt 5:13-14) Reflect on this: If everyone in your family, group, church or community shared your attitude, servant heart, values and morals, what would they look like? People may not read the Bible, but they will read your life. What do they read when they read you? What version of Jesus do they see? Who are you when no one is looking? Jesus promised to give His followers His authority and power for them to impact the world for Christ. (Mt 28:18) If there is envy, dishonesty, slander, impurity, greed, etc in our lives, we lose our light and saltiness. Then our God-given authority and witness are diminished. To regain it we must be humble, confess sin and ask for His Spirit to fill us again.

3. Jesus worked with and through a small group. Jesus was part of the Trinity in creating the world. (Gn 1:26). On earth Jesus chose a small group of men to work with to fulfill the Father's mission. (Lk 6:12-16) So we too need the support and encouragement of a group of like-minded people. When God calls us to carry out our mission, we may need to take a bold step of faith to have a spiritual conversation or to give sacrificially of time or money. We may battle fear or doubt and we need friends to encourage, support, pray and join us. Jesus' call to “Go...make disciples.” was intended for us to do with others. (Mt 28:19)

4. Jesus loved others sacrificially. (Mt 20:28) Though He went alone to pray or rest, Jesus tirelessly invested in the lives of those He met and cared for their needs. Jesus told how the good Samaritan showed real love. (Lk 10:30-37) Dr Martin Luther King Jr said that unlike the priest and Levite, the good Samaritan asked, “If I do NOT stop to help this man, what will happen to HIM?” That is genuine love—putting others' needs and interests first. In Jesus' day, religious leaders slandered, threatened and had Jesus crucified, but the common folk loved Him. He healed, served and built relationships with them. So did the early church—they loved God, worked under His authority and power, they loved one another and others in such an authentic way that many came to join them. (Acts 2:42-47) They were not doing it alone but together with others. Historian Will Durant says the world had never seen such love as that of Christ and early Christians—helping widows, orphans, prisoners, victims, the poor and sick. They not only told the truth of God's love but showed their love in action. In doing so they turned their world 'right side up'.

This is God's call to us as a church and community group to link arms and together carry out His mission: “Go and make disciples” and love others to Jesus in our city, country and world This means deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus. (Mk 8:34-37) Put others' needs and interests first, listen to God, honour and obey Him no matter what, trust Jesus and see others through His eyes—as God's missing children. Every person who is not a Christ-follower is one of God's 'missing kids' and that breaks His heart. Does your heart break for them? Is your heart wrecked by the poverty, homelessness, injustice, addiction and disease God's kids face? How are you joining with God and others to reach His spiritual kids? Most of the time God wants us to do some small thing for someone in our sphere of influence—pray for those He has put on our hearts, carry out His assignments faithfully, listen to a co-worker, encourage a waitress, bless others as one of the BLESSINGS PEOPLE. Whatever His assignment, remember Jesus' promise “Surely, I am with you always.” (Mt 28:20)