

In Jesus Steps

Disciples for Life

Unit 2: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 11

Active Leadership Mission (Part Two)

Week One (Note: there are three mission weeks in Lesson 10)

The Holy Spirit

In Lesson 10: *Part One*, we asked Jesus for opportunities to serve Him each day by helping others. We were on *mission*. Jesus assigned us specific tasks to carry out for God's glory. We were also asked to practice taking "every thought captive" to Christ. We learned how to discipline our minds each day in order to store up good things in our hearts.

Definitions: The word *mission* not only means an assigned task but a calling as well. A calling is an objective or task people believe they must carry out with special care and devotion. *Missions* are specific activities undertaken to bring the gospel to places where people have not had the opportunity to learn about it. It is an organized effort to reach the lost and make disciples. Typically, *missions* involve believers going to a foreign country to share the story of salvation.

Both *mission* and *missions* are from God. He assigns tasks, gives the call, and sends people to a lost and hurting world. There is a Latin term, *Missio Dei* (pronounced miss-ee-oh day), that has come to describe God's work and purpose in the world. *Missio Dei* is translated into English, God's Mission. The Latin word *missio* is also translated "a sending or sending away."

Sending is an important concept in missions or mission. We do not dream or plot out ways to help God, but specifically request our assignments. God will communicate in some way what He wants us to do. He also enables us to go and accomplish His purposes.

God's overarching mission in the world is redemption¹ through His Son. Therefore, we should embrace and give utmost attention to sharing the gospel and making disciples. Our involvement in God's Mission (*Missio Dei*) flows from the life and activity of our triune God:

The Father sends the Son (John 3:16).

The Father and the Son send the Spirit (John 14:16–17, 16:7).

Father, Son, and Spirit send you, me, and all believers (Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 4:4–6).²

It does not matter where we live, or what responsibilities we may or may not have, God can and will use us. He may have a foreign field in mind, or He may want us exactly where we are.

¹ God's action of purchasing mankind from sin's penalty, bondage, and power through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

² Terry Timm, *Worship Mission. Transformation.* <<http://www.terrytimm.com/about/mission/>> (Accessed 6/10/2010)

Remember God is the Potter and we are the clay. The clay does not tell the Maker what shape or purpose it desires.

The Father sending the Son, glorified God. Jesus, becoming flesh and walking on earth, revealed God's true identity (John 1:14, 18, 17:4–6) and glorified Him. The Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to enable people to believe in Jesus, know God and glorify Him. All sending, all mission(s) involve making God's true character known through His Son Jesus Christ.

Read Acts 1:4–5:

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4–5

The Holy Spirit's presence and direction in the life of a Christian leader is critical. It was so important that Jesus commanded His disciples to wait until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. As followers of Christ, we also need to be immersed and totally engaged with the Spirit of God. Invite the Spirit to fill and lead in every part of your life.

The Spirit keeps us focused on God and His agenda. Notice our focus is first and foremost on God. We desire to glorify and honor God, so we seek out His plan for ourselves and others. We want to be on mission with God because we love Him. If we get this backwards and look for the mission first, we will become "works oriented" instead of "Christ oriented."

Without the Spirit of truth moving in our lives, we will not be a positive influence on the attitudes and actions of others for Christ. We need the Spirit's direction, counsel, love, and power. He brings us into daily communication with God and enables us to carry out His mission.

Read and meditate on John 16:13–15:

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you." John 16:13–15

In John 16:13–15, Jesus was teaching His disciples about the Holy Spirit. This was an extremely important lesson because in a short time Jesus, in His physical form, would be leaving them. He would suffer death and although He would rise again, His glorified body would go to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9; 1 Peter 3:22).

The disciples would not be left to face their future alone. Jesus' Spirit would be with them. He would continue to teach, guide, and comfort them just as Jesus had done. In the same way, we are not left to face our future alone. The Holy Spirit is with us to teach, guide, and comfort in every situation and need.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Jesus is truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus and guides us into all knowledge of our Savior. He does not speak alone, but speaks as one with the Father and the Son. They are in total agreement about all things. They hold no unique thoughts or interests—they are exactly the same.

The Spirit tells or reveals knowledge to us as we need it. He does not give us more than we can handle. Each day He will illuminate God's word and show us how we might honor God and exalt the name of Jesus. Exalting Jesus exalts God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We are not slighting God the Father by lifting up the name of Jesus. Praising Jesus is the same as praising God the Father.

We glorify Jesus by seeing and worshipping Him for who He is and what He has done. He was born of the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem and placed in a manger. He lived a life without sin, serving God and was crucified for humanity's sins. Remember this was God's plan for Jesus to die and to be resurrected. Therefore, the cross will always be prominent in glorifying the Son, the Father, and the Spirit.

After Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to about 500 people, He ascended into heaven. He will return in unparalleled splendor as King of kings and Lord of lords to usher in a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). These truths about Jesus are the basics of our faith and the most important way of glorifying Him.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:18–21

Definitions: Having *the eyes of your heart enlightened* is another way of praying “to see beyond the physical realm into the spiritual” or “to receive deeper spiritual understanding.” To *enlighten* is to be in or into light. Light is metaphor for spiritual insight. Therefore, anyone who has a great revelation about the divinity of the world, would be enlightened.

Pray for God to enlighten the eyes of your heart and the hearts of your discipleship team to see Jesus.

Mission

Your mission this week is to meditate (think deeply, reflect) on the basic truths of Jesus' person, birth, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and return. The Bible citations are listed for each day for you to read from your Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in order to see Jesus in real and meaningful ways and enabling you to complete any task or assignment. Keep a journal log below and share what the Spirit reveals to you in the space provided and with your team.

Day 1

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *person*: John 1:1, 14, 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5–7; Hebrews 1:3.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

Day 2

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *birth*: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Matthew 1:16, 21; Luke 1:35; John 1:9, 14.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

Day 3

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *ministry*: Matthew 4:17–25, 8:2–4; Luke 3:23, 4:16–30, 31–44.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

Day 4

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *death*: John 19:1–37; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 3:16.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

Day 5

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *resurrection*: Matthew 28:5–7; John 11:25, 20:10–20; Acts 4:10–11.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

Day 6

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *ascension*: Mark 16:19–20, Acts 1:6–12; 1 Timothy 3:16.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

Day 7

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *return or second coming*: Matthew 16:27, 23:39, 24:30, 36–39; Mark 8:36–38; John 14:1–4; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7, 3:11, 22:20–21.
2. Share what the Spirit revealed to you or how He led you:

End of Week Review

Review your week and your above journal log. Do you see a particular pattern or theme in your life or how the Spirit led you as you meditated on the person of Jesus Christ?

—End of Week One—

Week Two

God's Love for You

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Hopefully, during your mission assignment last week you recognized the great love God has for you in sending His Son to earth. God's word is a record of Jesus and His mission of love. God wants you to rely on His love and to never doubt it. In fact, doubting God's love for you is tantamount (equal) to saying that God is not truthful. As a disciple and leader, you must rely and depend on God's love for you and those you serve.

Mission

Read the citations from your Bible and meditate on them each day. Where appropriate, place your name in the verse and think of God talking with you and about you. Write your thoughts about God's love for you and how He reveals His love to you each day:

Day 1

1. Think about God's love for you: Psalm 17:7–9, 42:8
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

Day 2

1. Think about God's love for you: Romans 5:5–8, 8:28–39
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

Day 3

1. Think about God's love for you: Psalm 63:3, 107:28–31
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

Day 4

1. Think about God's love for you: John 14:1–4; Ephesians 2:4–7
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

Day 5

1. Think about God's love for you: Psalm 136:1–9; Song of Solomon 2:4
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

Day 6

1. Think about God's love for you: Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 119:76; Ephesians 3:16–19
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

Day 7

1. Think about God's love for you: John 3:16; Revelation 3:19–20, 21:4, 22:5
2. Your thoughts about God's love:

End of Week Review

Review your week and your above journal log. Do you see a particular pattern or theme in your love relationship with God?

—End of Week Two—

Week Three

Loving God and People

When we realize how much God loves us and how much He has done for us, we love Him in return. In other words, we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). If we have difficulty in loving because of past abuse or shame, we need to remember that God has poured out His love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). We do not have to manufacture love. The Holy Spirit enables us to love just as He enables us to follow Christ. We need to trust God's promise and cooperate with His Holy Spirit.

Discipleship and leadership is about loving people. We want to lead because we love God. Since we love God, we love the people He has created in His image—rich or poor, healthy or handicapped, your ethnic group or another ethnic group, high intelligence or low intelligence, young or old, pleasing personality or rotten personality. We want *all* people to experience God's love and purpose for their lives.

Mission

Read the Bible verses each day for inspiration and pray for God to help you sincerely love others. Ask God for supernatural favor to achieve a perfect love walk! Invite the Holy Spirit to love people through you with your thoughts, words, actions, and deeds. Record one incident each day over the next week how you were led to love an individual or to love in general and what happened. Be prepared to share some of your experiences with your discipleship team.

Day 1

1. Pray and think about loving others: Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39–40; Luke 7:44–47
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

Day 2

1. Pray and think about loving others: Deuteronomy 6:5–7; Matthew 5:43, 22:37–38; 1 Thessalonians 3:12
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

Day 3

1. Pray and think about loving others: 2 Samuel 9:3–10; Luke 10:39–42
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

Day 4

1. Pray and think about loving others: Deuteronomy 11:1; 1 Kings 8:61; 1 Corinthians 12:13–13:8
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

Day 5

1. Pray and think about loving others: John 14:15, 21, 23–24; 1 Peter 1:22, 2:17, 4:8
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

Day 6

1. Pray and think about loving others: Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; John 3:11–20, 4:19–21, 15:12; Revelation 2:1–5
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

Day 7

1. Pray and think about loving others: Genesis 13:5–9; Esther 4:15–16; Proverbs 3:5–6; Jeremiah 29:13–14
2. This is how the Holy Spirit led me in loving an individual or loving other in general:

End of Week Review

Review your week and your above journal log. Share one thing that you learned (joy or difficulty) in your week of loving others:

—End of Week Three and Lesson 11—

Next—Unit 2: Christian Leadership, Lesson 12: Praying Leader

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