



## **International Baptist Church of Manila**

LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER • SESSION SEVEN: SHARE •  
LUKE 4:42-43; MATTHEW 6:33; MATTHEW 24:14 • 9/27/2020

### **MAIN POINT**

We share in God's mission out of the overflow of our relationship with Him.

### **INTRODUCTION**

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What's a hobby or interest you would say you're passionate about?**

**What factors have played a role in increasing your passion for that hobby or interest (i.e. time spent, knowledge gained, etc.)?**

We give time to what we're passionate about. If you're a sports fan, you likely make time to watch games. You own the gear. You know the starting line-ups. If you care about your yard, you make sure it's cut, watered, and fertilized. You'll keep the flowerbeds weeded and the bushes trimmed. No matter what it is, all passions take time and intentionality.

Throughout this study, we've seen that if we're going to follow Jesus, His life must be lived through our lives. If that's true, we must be passionate about what Jesus is passionate about. We must give our time to what Jesus prioritizes. If we look through the Gospels, it becomes clear that Jesus was passionate about expanding the kingdom of God so that all people could know the saving power of the Father. We'll think about that passion together in this session.

### **UNDERSTANDING**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 7: SHARE— THE MISSION IS BIG".

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 4:42-43.

**How closely does your heart reflect Jesus' in these verses? How often do you feel like you must be about God's work in the world?**

**How have we made missions another church program instead of the passion of Jesus' life?**

**How does making missions a program of the church make the calling to be a witness seem optional?**

As you follow Jesus, what is on His heart will be on your heart. As you invest in your relationship with Him, you'll care about the world. Jesus was concerned about the expanse of His kingdom— His sovereign activity in the world resulting in people being in right relationship with Him.

| ASK A COUPLE OF VOLUNTEERS TO READ MATTHEW 6:33 AND MATTHEW 24:14.

**What is the kingdom, and what does it look like to see it first in our lives? Who do you know that models this well?**

**How does the expanse of the kingdom of God tie to our mission to the nations?**

The kingdom is continually expanding as the mission goes forward. God is at work all over the world, and He brought us into a relationship to join Him in that work. We accept the invitation and allow Him to work through us. We all bear the responsibility to share in God's mission locally and globally.

**Vance said one of the greatest tools of the devil is the self-centeredness of God's people. How does being self-centered rob our passion for mission?**

**Where have you prioritized your own kingdom above Jesus'?**

**The church shares in the mission of Jesus together. What are a few ways we can encourage one another to be involved in God's mission locally and globally?**

The apathy and disinterest of Christians is the greatest obstacle to the kingdom expanding. In order for the kingdom to expand, we must overcome our own selfishness. As we saw in earlier sessions, we become less selfish the more that we invest in a love relationship with the Father. Jesus was tempted like we are, this likely includes a temptation towards apathy, but the

Scriptures continually show Jesus stealing away to be alone with the Father. This fueled His desire to expand God's kingdom.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What do you do for a living, and how could God use your profession to bring His light into the world?**

You are not in your career by accident. Don't believe the lie that only ministers and other "professional" Christians share in the mission. All of us can bring our vocations to God as an offering.

**What skills do you have? Management, finance, education, artistic skills?**

You are naturally gifted at something and should be leveraging those gifts for God's renown. Instead of using your skills to build your own wealth, use them for the kingdom.

**What are your hobbies and interests? Writing, photography, playing sports, listening to music, exercise?**

God can use interests and affinity to bring you into relationships with people you might never meet otherwise. Some of the people you meet pursuing an interest may not know Jesus. Use your passion to share Him with the world.

## PRAYER

Ask for renewed passion for God's work in the world. Ask God to give you courage to be a witness when and where He calls you to be one. Pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ with the world.

## COMMENTARY

| LUKE 4:42-43

This is the first of more than 30 times that the kingdom of God is mentioned in Luke's Gospel. A full-blown concept of the kingdom includes: (1) the King (ruler), (2) the rule itself (sovereignty to rule), (3) the realm being ruled (this world), and (4) those ruled (individuals who believe the good news of Jesus Christ). In addition, some passages in the Gospels present the kingdom of God as

already present in at least some senses (Mt 12:28) while others speak of it as being still future (Mt 6:10).

### | MATTHEW 6:33

We are to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness. Everything starts here. This is to be our consuming priority. So it is important to remind ourselves of some basic kingdom realities. How does a person find God's righteousness that characterizes His kingdom? Jesus started His sermon by pointing out our utter spiritual bankruptcy. We have no righteousness of our own. Even our best attitudes and actions do not procure it. Righteousness comes as a merciful gift, grace through faith (Eph. 2:4–10).

### | MATTHEW 24:14

The final general sign Jesus gave concerning the end of the age was that this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world (cf. Luke 24:47).

Jesus' next phrase, as a testimony to all nations, answered two questions. First, it clarified what Jesus meant by the whole world, namely, all nations. He used the word meaning "race, nation." This term was often used to mean "the Gentiles." The term refers more commonly to cultural and ethnic boundaries rather than political boundaries.

The second question Jesus answered has to do with the purpose of preaching this gospel of the kingdom throughout the world. A testimony (marturion) was a legal term, referring to the sharing of information on a particular topic. In this case, it had to do with Jesus and his kingdom. The testimony served two purposes simultaneously: (1) it could win the listener over, and (2) it could condemn the guilty. Implied here is Jesus' distinction between those who listened and those who did not (11:15; 13:9,43). End here means the end of the age.