

Missio Dei

The Sending God

Introduction:

God is a "sending God."

The Father sent His Son

Gal 4:4 (NASB) But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

The Father and the Son send the Spirit

John 14:26 (NASB) "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

The Son sends us.

John 20:21 (NASB) Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

What can we learn from God sending the Son that will help us to understand what it means for the Son to have sent us?

I. Being sent by God, provided the basis of orientation for Jesus' life. So too, being sent by God should provide the basis of orientation for our lives.

A. Jesus' priority was to do the will of the Father who sent Him.

John 6:38 (NASB) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

1. Jesus submitted Himself to the will of the Father.

Mat 26:38 (NASB) Then He said[^] to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

Mat 26:39 (NASB) And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

2. Doing the will of God who sent Him, proved to be the sustaining and satisfying factor in Jesus' life.

John 4:34 (NASB) Jesus said[^] to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

B. Being sent by God was key to Jesus perception regarding His activity.

1. Jesus did not go of His own initiative.

John 5:30 (NASB) "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

2. We were saved and go not by our own initiative.

John 15:16 (NASB) "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.

C. Being "sent" is key to our mission al thinking.

There are a series of questions that focus upon the need of our being sent.

1. How are people going to have a relationship with God without believing?

Rom 10:14 (NASB) How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

2. How are people going to believe if they have not heard?

Rom 10:14 (NASB) How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

3. How are people going to hear unless someone tells them?

Rom 10:14 (NASB) How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

4. How is someone going to tell them without going to them?

Rom 10:15 (NASB) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

5. We are sent to a people who won't come to us.

Rom 10:20 (NASB) And Isaiah is very bold and says, "I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO SOUGHT ME NOT, I BECAME MANIFEST TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."

6. The mission al necessity is found in the theology of man's failure to seek God.

Rom 3:11 (NASB) THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

7. Jesus had to be sent into the world because the world could not come to him.

- a. Jesus was "sent" by God from heaven.

John 6:38 (NASB) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

- b. Mankind did not go to heaven seeking God.

John 3:13 (NASB) "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.

D. Application:

1. Here is a practical arena of uniting theology with practice.
2. There is a world of difference between an attraction church model and a mission al church model.
 - a. Here we need to differentiate from the church growth movement.
 - b. We need to practice discernment in the "seeker friendly" movement.

3. We need to be mission al as church.
4. We need to be mission al as individuals.

Mat 28:19 (NASB) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 (NASB) teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

II. The purpose for which Jesus sent into the world and the purpose for which we are sent into the world.

A. Jesus came to proclaim the “gospel” of the kingdom of God.

Luke 4:43 (NASB) But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

Mat 4:23 (NASB) And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

B. Notice what preaching the gospel of the kingdom included.

Luke 4:18 (NASB) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN,

Luke 4:19 (NASB) TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

1. Preaching the gospel of the kingdom was proclaiming freedom to those in bondage.

Luke 4:18 (NASB) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN,

a. Note that Jesus did not empty the prisons.

b. Jesus did not abolish slavery in the Roman empire.

- c. Jesus did exorcize demons.
- d. Jesus did give a new status to slaves.

2. Preaching the gospel of the kingdom was bringing light to the blind.

Luke 4:18 (NASB) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN,

- a. Jesus did give physical sight to the physical blind.
- b. Jesus also gave spiritual sight to the spiritual blind.

John 9:40 (NASB) Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things, and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"

John 9:41 (NASB) Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

3. Jesus came to proclaim help for the oppressed.

Luke 4:18 (NASB) "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE DOWNTRODDEN,

4. Jesus came to proclaim rest for the weary.

Luke 4:19 (NASB) TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD."

C. We are sent to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

Luke 9:2 (NASB) And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing.

Mat 24:14 (NASB) "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall

come.

Luke 9:60 (NASB) But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God."

III. What a mission al proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom look like and how is to be done?

A. It begins by understanding that the gospel of the kingdom is more than just proclaiming how a person gets to heaven.

B. The gospel of the kingdom is a proclamation of the good news of what it means to be reconciled to the king of heaven.

2 Cor 5:18 (NASB) Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

2 Cor 5:19 (NASB) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Cor 5:20 (NASB) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

C. The mission al taking the gospel of the kingdom to the world has been minimally applied in "missions."

1. The role of medical missions

2. The need of feeding the poor

3. The providing shelter for the refugees

4. The administration of help to those with addictions.

D. Now it is necessary for the church to view itself as mission al (sent) and every believer to view as him/herself to be sent with the gospel of the kingdom.

1. The gospel of reconciliation to the king heaven.

2. Not a truncated gospel of how to merely get to heaven. The gospel of the kingdom includes the gospel of how to get to heaven, but it includes so much more.

E. The gospel of the kingdom takes the good news and benefits of Christ's

kingdom to others.

1. The gospel has clear implications for this life and not just the life to come.

Psa 27:13 (NASB) I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

Many people are in despair in this world.

There is good news for them. There is good news for us.

2. The Christian Community is seen as condemning not healing, caring, compassionate, helpful or relevant.

Can you help me with my temper or do I need to go to a counselor?

Can Christianity help me? Can Christianity help them?

3. We all need to be mission al in our thinking.
 - a. How can I become more mission al?
 - b. How can I bring the gospel of the kingdom to others?
 - c. I need to view the gospel as more than a message of how to get to heaven.
 - d. I need to see the gospel as solution to sin - the sin of the fall and individual personal sin.
 - e. I need to see my helping others as not only a means of sharing the gospel, but as being an integral part of the gospel.