

MISSIO DEI

Missio Dei is Latin for “the mission of God”. The Bible tells us the story of God and His mission to redeem and restore this world through Jesus. We need to give up our agendas and join God on His mission not tell God ours.

The whole Bible renders to us the story of God’s mission through God’s people in their engagement with God’s world for the sake of the whole of God’s creation.

Mark 4:1-20, New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

¹ Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

⁹ Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that,

“they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”



Sermon Notes

The Word of God is a Person.

When you read it, do you see words or do you see Him?



We must **HEAR** it

“For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.” Mt 13:15



We must **RECEIVE** it

“No man ever believes that the Bible means what it says: He is always convinced that it says what he means.” –G.B. Shaw



We must **TEND** it

The Word of God has enemies, within and without. No Garden is without weeds, thorns or snakes. “Did God really say...”

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR BIBLE

It will greatly help you to understand scripture if you note – not only what is spoken and written, but of whom and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstances, considering what goes before and what follows. –M.Coverdale

- (1) **Be Confident** - *Your word is lamp to my feet Ps 119:105*
- (2) **Be Personal** - *It is talking to me, and about me.*
- (3) **Be Social** – *join in open conversation with others*
- (4) **Be Diligent:** *The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied. -Proverbs 13:4*



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GOD'S GOODNESS GOD'S WISDOM GOD'S KINDNESS

ROMANS 2:17- 3:8

The same theme is continued that God does not care about our pedigree, and no one is immune from our responsibility or His judgment! Yet the Jews thought they were, Paul has some startling news for them! Because of our fallen reasoning we think we are better than others. Because if we are a Jew or for us Christians, we think we can rest in our heritage, but this is not the case.

MONDAY

Knowing that God judges honestly and rightly, and without partiality how does this affect the way you size up other people?

TUESDAY

“When we rest on who we are as Christians and then do nothing with our faith, we are like the Jews who reject Christ.” What do you think of that statement? (We may have our salvation, which they do not, but what good is it?)

WEDNESDAY

We are under the curse of our sin, which the law points to. Christ removes that curse of sin, but not the law. So what does the Law do? How would you explain to someone what the Law is?

THURSDAY

Why do some Christians hide behind their Rituals, baptism, liturgy, and church membership? These sacraments are important, but what is their focus, what is your focus?

FRIDAY

APPLICATION: How can you walk in/ with God with trust and obedience deeper and with more commitment?

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

Why not teach them, so they would know the Bible story and thus have a greater capacity for life in general?

That’s because it’s quite strange to save a soul and leave the mind behind. How, exactly, does one do that? In a culture that is increasingly superficial, hurried, and dull, we preachers are compelled by conscience to learn as much as we can and then to tell it as clearly, succinctly, and directly as possible. Because it’s wicked to waste a mind.

For a disciple there is always a moment of decision and a time to choose. How could it be otherwise? Sooner or later God beckons us on from the place where we are standing and asks that we go in a new direction. There will be bridges to build and bridges to cross. This could be difficult, demanding and profoundly challenging to us, as we seek to cross the barriers which keep us apart from those God loves and to whom God sends us. We should not expect it to be otherwise. The footbridge reminds us that we will need to travel light. There may be much we will need to leave behind if we are to get to where God needs us. So we carry just the essentials; our trust in the God of loving kindness disclosed in the Bible and met face to face in the risen Jesus, our openness to the presence and empowering of God's loving energy through the Holy Spirit, and our commitment to participate in God's life-saving work of liberation and transformation.

Scripture, prayer and action was the way of Jesus, and it is our vocation too. No matter how threatening the weather ahead may look we are called to take fresh paths and to cross new bridges. We always journey on as we become the person whom God longs for us to be and travel to the place of discipleship where God needs us to be. And the sun will shine.

Believing in the future takes faith. ... We cannot function effectively without a belief in that which does not exist. ... You believe in tomorrow; you believe in progress. -- Erwin Raphael McManus

Three Challenges You'll Face in 2012 **Rick Warren**

New situations always require new structures. A new job often requires you to learn new skills. A new relationship often requires new ways of relating.

A new year often requires we re-think the way we're doing things. Jesus said, "New wine must be poured into new wineskins". ([Luke 5:38](#))

What are your old wineskins? Old ways of thinking? Old habits? They could be outdated ways of doing ministry, or preaching, or training that worked well in the past, but are no longer useful or helpful.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to re-examine your ministry. It is safe to assume that you will face three new "wines" in 2012: **new problems, new pressures, and new possibilities**. To handle these new challenges, you'll need the new "wineskins" of **creativity, conviction, and courage**.

New Problems Will Require Creativity

Unfortunately, you're bound to have problems in 2012. The good news is they won't be the same problems you had in 2011. You will get a whole new set! These new problems will require creativity to come up with new solutions. Your old ways of thinking and relating, your old attitudes may not work anymore. That's why the Bible says, "The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them."

Many pastors spend more time and energy trying to get around problems than they do solving them. Instead of avoiding or ignoring your problems in 2012, ask God to give you the creativity to solve them.

New Pressures Will Require Conviction

Conviction is a willingness to stand up for what you believe. [Romans 12:2](#) says, "Don't let the world squeeze you in its mold, but let God remake you so your whole attitude of mind is changed." Before you get too far into 2012, I suggest you sit down and write out what values are going to be important to you in the New Year.

More than ever before, in 2012, we're going to need men and women of conviction, who say, "I'm going to do the right thing no matter what the consequences".

New Possibilities Will Require Courage

Each New Year brings new possibilities – opportunities for growth. These are exciting times to be alive. God wants to do great things in your life this New Year – but it won't happen automatically. You've got to step out in faith. There's always an element of risk. [Hosea 10:12](#) says, "Plow new ground for yourselves, plant righteousness, and reap the blessing your devotion to me will produce!"

What are you planning to harvest this next year? Three hundred sixty five days from today, how will your be improved? If you want your ministry to change for the better, you've got to start cultivating some new habits, activities, and relationships now! Success doesn't just happen. It takes effort.

Learn the Word, Love the Word, LIVE the Word. The nationwide launch of Pastor Rick's 40 Days in the Word is coming January 29th. [Watch a 3-minute video testimony](#) of lives already being changed. Download a [free sample PDF](#) of 40 Days in the Word.

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Rick Warren is the founding pastor of [Saddleback Church](#) in Lake Forest, Calif., one of America's largest and best-known churches. In addition, Rick is author of the New York Times best seller [The Purpose Driven Life](#) and [The Purpose Driven Church](#), which was named one of the 100 Christian books that changed the 20th century. He is also founder of [Pastors.com](#), a global Internet community for ministers.

