

MISSIO DEI

Missio Dei is Latin for “the mission of God”. The Bible tells the story of God and His mission to redeem and restore this world through Jesus. The whole Bible is the story of God’s plan enacted through God’s people in God’s world for the sake of God’s creation.

Luke 10:25-37

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’^[c]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[d]”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two silver coins^[e] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

AUDIO PODCAST: www.sermon.net/First_Church



Sermon Notes

3 Simple Rules

Rule #2: Do Good

I will do all the good I can, in all the places I can, for as long as I can.

- Challenge:**
1. It may not be **understood**
 2. It may not be **appreciated**
 3. It may even be **rejected** or **misused**

Doing Good produces **Strength**

Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good. Rm 12:21

True faith expects nothing of itself; everything from God; therein alone lies its strength.

Doing Good produces **Gratitude**

“You have already given me so much, O God,
yet one thing more I ask, a grateful heart.”

Doing Good produces **Wisdom**

BE ALERT: What good do I see that needs doing?

BE READY: What could I do to help make it happen?

BE WILLING: Will I do it?

W E S L E Y A N P L E D G E

Any kindness I can show, any good thing I can do, any encouragement I can offer, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

July 22, 2012



going deeper

Describe Your Relationship to God

The Bible uses a number of metaphors to describe our relationship to God at various stages. If you'll notice, they ascend in a stunning way:

- *Potter and clay*. At this level we are merely aware that our lives are shaped—even broken—by a powerful hand. There isn't much communication, just the sovereignty of God at work.
- *Shepherd and sheep*. At this stage we feel provided for, watched over, cared about. But beyond that, a sheep has little by way of true intimacy with the Shepherd. They are altogether different creatures.
- *Master and servant*. Many, many believers are stuck in this stage, where they are committed to obey, but the relationship is mostly about receiving orders and instructions and carrying them out.
- *Father and child*. This is certainly more intimate than being a servant; children get the run of the house, they get to climb on Daddy's lap. These fortunate souls understand God's fatherly love and care for them. They feel "at home" with God.
- *Friends*. This stage actually opens up a deeper level of intimacy as we walk together with God, companions in a shared mission. We know what's on his heart; he knows what's on ours. There is a maturity and intimacy to the relationship.
- *Bridegroom and bride (lovers)*. Here, the words of the Song of Songs could also describe our spiritual intimacy, our union and oneness with God.

Where would you put your relationship with God? Why did you choose that "level"? Has it always been that way? (*The Journey of Desire Journal & Guidebook*, 150)

SCORE Method

Subject: **Discipleship**

Central Theme: **Heart of Discipleship is to do Good**

Objective: Every Christian should follow Wesley's Simple Rule of Doing Good because of the spiritual **benefits** it produces.

Rationale

1. Doing Good produces Strength

- a. Tend the flame, learning into habit, Gospel Reality
- b. Get the best of evil by doing good. Rm 12:21

2. Doing Good produces Gratitude

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3. Doing Good produces Wisdom

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Resources:

"My neighbor is the one who crosses the road for me!" H. Nouwen

Evaluation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is my objective clear? | <input type="checkbox"/> Is my Key Word a plural noun? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does it fit my rationale? | <input type="checkbox"/> Are my rationale parallel? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Does my rationale lead to my objective? | |

The Three Simple Rules

Life can be complicated at times. We often feel scattered and overwhelmed. We come to church seeking peace and direction. We come hoping to gain perspective and fulfillment. Drawing parallels between Wesley's time and the world today, the feelings of disenfranchisement, doubt and fear are much the same. But Wesley's three simple rules transformed women and men and started a Methodist movement that became a denomination and transformed a forming nation in North America. What would it look like if you made these rules the center of your living?

At the end of the day, as you examine your day, ask God to show you...

- i. Where/when you chose to do no harm
- ii. Where/when you chose to do good
- iii. Where/when you saw God at work and demonstrated your love for Him

Depart from evil, and do good; so you shall abide forever. Psalm 37:27 (NRSV)

Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but imitate what is good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. 3 John 11 (NRSV)

See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. 1 Thessalonians 5:15 (NRSV)

These rules change not only how we live, but also why we live. When we follow these rules we begin to live for God instead of ourselves. We

respond to God's love with love of our own. Like the first rule, we might not complete the journey in this lifetime, but it does not mean that we should not start the journey. Let us start that journey together today. Let us not just do no harm, but let us do good in the world.

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. They all turned around and went back. Every one of them bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." All nine linked arms and walked across the finish line together. Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What truly matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course. It means doing good.