



## Growing a heart for Jesus' Mission.

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When I first came to Christ, I had no idea of the adventure of following Jesus that lay before me. I was just happy I was saved. I was enjoying the local church and exploring my new faith. 40 years on I look back and I am so thankful for all that the Lord has done in my life. I am especially thankful for God opening my heart up to an understanding of the mission of Jesus and my place in joining Him in it.

Like all growth, it has been a gradual process over time. And rather than finding my heart growing tired of it, my passion, desire, and motivation has grown stronger. I want more than ever to be a 'vessel fit for the Master's use' (2Tm), someone that God can use to fulfill this **great Co-mission**. 'Go into all the world... (Mtt 28; Mk 16:15).

Some years ago, I had the privilege of meeting with Pr Danny Guglielmucci. I love his passion and heart for Christ and for the lost. At that time, he was going through a really difficult time with health and other issues. I asked him what it was that kept him going under such pressure. He looked at me and said, ***It's the vision, Greg, the vision***'. I've never forgotten that.

It's true. If you keep that vision before your eyes, nothing distracting, you will find the motivation and energy to keep moving forward; to keep serving; to keep working to fulfill the vision God has given you and the mission of Jesus in which we are all 'co-workers' (1 Cor. 3:9).

Personally, I think it is really exciting to be involved in the mission of Jesus. Frankly, life would be pretty boring if it was just about feathering my own nest and living for temporal things. This is especially true given what I know about Christ's coming Kingdom, His Salvation plan, and his purpose to work in and through our lives to help others come to know Him.

What He calls us to do, doesn't simply improve the present state of people's lives but prepares them for eternity. One day Jesus will return and gathered before Him will be multitudes from **every tribe, tongue, and nation (Rev 7)** saved forever.

It is my prayer for us today that our hearts would burn within us when we think about the mission of Jesus and our part in it.

**Here are some things to consider:**

**Freely you have received, so freely give (Matt 10:8).**

It really is an obligation of love to share what we ourselves have received. God Himself does this. All that He has, He has given to us freely, paid for by the Blood of His Son. So, we don't give out of lack, but out of our abundance in Christ. **All things are yours (1 cor. 3:21)**, Paul said. We ARE 'blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1)'. Let's share it with others.

**Go into all the world (Mk 16:15). AS you go (ISV).**

Jesus never said stay. To 'go' involves action. The church in Jerusalem was not going (Acts 2). But, because of persecution they were scattered to other regions (Acts 8:1-4). They had to go then, and in the process took Jesus with them. Israel was to be a 'light to the nations' (Is 42:1-9) but they remained inward looking and missed God's purpose for them. The local church also is to be **radic** (outward) in its approach to life, mission and ministry. Yes, there are **centric** aspects in terms of caring for each other, and maintenance, etc in the church, but we must, at least, match that by being outward looking and willing to take what God has given us to those outside the church.

*People get happy when the church building is full. They feel successful. But what about the vast majority of people still outside?*

**One of our biggest hindrances is the many distractions of life.**

Nehemiah (Neh. 6:3). Jesus: **Go tell that fox I will.....reach my goal (Luke 13:32)** Jesus allowed nothing to distract him from the mission.

**Keys to growing a heart for Jesus' Mission and how to be involved?**

1. Pray. Paul (2 Cor. 1:11; Col 4:3-4).
2. Give (locally and globally – world missions). (2 Cor. 8:7). *Where your treasure is?*
3. Build up the local church, as a base of operations (Acts 13:3).
4. **Go**; step out and use what is in your hand (Ex 4:2); **share the gospel**.
5. **SEE** the mission of Jesus in the Word. Study it. (Gen 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:9)

Friends, Jesus' mission is not an addition to world affairs, or some minor aspect of what God is doing. No. It IS what God is doing and why the world still exists.

Therefore, the Mission of Jesus is central to the life and purpose of those who love Him.

Let us be determined to grow a heart for Jesus' mission and join Him as co-workers to fulfill it.

*Where your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be (Mtt. 6:29 NLT).*