

April 26 - Godspeed P.11-36 - Preface & 1. Mission: It's Not about People

Greeting: What's your name?

Community Building: Fact or Fiction

PREFACE Something's Missing "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." Jesus

"When we read the Gospels, it's clear that Jesus was on a mission. He ignored cultural norms to seek the broken, He defied social boundaries to touch the untouchable, and He challenged the nature of justice to free the guilty. Jesus, fully God and fully man, upheld the law perfectly and bore its consequence on the cross to bring salvation for all humanity. He was raised from the dead; conquered sin, death, and the devil; and ushered in a kingdom of victory. Then in John 20:21, before ascending to glory, Jesus made a single statement that set the course for all of Christianity: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." Before He left the earth, Jesus called His followers to continue His work. He called them to Missio Christi: the mission of Christ to save the world."

1. What would the church look like today if we actually did this?

"Missio Christi is about being who you are where you are, but beginning to live with faithful, missional intentionality."

2. What does it mean to live at "Godspeed"?

Chapter 1 MISSION It's Not about People

"There is no participation in Christ without participation in His mission to the world." I.M.C.

"This book, therefore, is not about "missions." It's about mission. It's about the mission of Christ to the world and our specific place within that mandate. Your place in it. We're going to drop the s permanently. It's time to get on a new trip. Mission is the single reason why your life's purpose is different from most of the rest of the world. Christians are unique, in part, because of their intentional participation in the mission of Jesus Christ. You are unique because of this call. The American church has believed that if we simply send money to other Christians overseas, then they will fulfill our call to mission for us. We've believed that if we spend a week of the summer performing evangelistic mime skits on the streets of Mexico City, then we can check "missions" off our yearly to-do lists. The presupposition of this book is that we've had it wrong all this time. A Christian's entire life is the mission trip."

3. If you view your entire life as a mission trip, how could that affect the way we live our daily lives? "Being on mission is the paradigm shift of a lifetime. The greatest adventure is to hear the invitation and respond. The greatest tragedy is to ignore our calling and go on living life as usual."

4. Why is responding identified as the greatest adventure?

5. Why is ignoring identified as the greatest tragedy?

“When we see the grand story of God’s mission to redeem, restore, and heal humanity, it’s a massive paradigm shift. We realize that life is not about us or what we want to do.... Life is about God and His glory and what He is doing. The more we get caught up in that reality, the more we are free to be who God is calling us to be. The question “What should I do?” becomes “What is God doing?””

6. Why is freedom found in God’s mission?

“Church is not the goal of mission or the gospel. ... rather it is God’s express instrument for ministry and mission.”

We need to **disconnect** some of our thinking about the church and **reconnect our thinking with a biblical view of mission.**

Disconnect: We think our individual salvation and individual worship of God is the goal.

7. How do we reconnect?

Disconnect: We see the church as a place to meet our personal needs—spiritually, relationally, physically, and socially.

8. How do we reconnect?

Disconnect: We see mission, or “missions,” as one of the many programs of the church in which we may or may not participate.

9. How do we reconnect?

Disconnect: We send people off to other places to do “missions.”

10. How do we reconnect?

“The church is the people of God called to God sent by God for the glory of God to meet the needs of the world with God.”

“God’s mission calls us to Himself in worship then sends us out into the world in His service to represent His kingdom and proclaim His gospel, wherever we are.”

11. How has God spoken to you so far? Has he changed your thinking?

Next Week: May 3, p.37-56 Chapter 2. Call: Good News for Us..In Spite of Us - Women Only

Audio Message by Pastor Britt Merrick (Author of the book) -
<http://realitycarpinteria.com/sermons/missio-christi-mission/>