

# Everyday Mission

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Matthew 28:18-20

“Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”

– Charles H. Spurgeon

Close your eyes and picture a missionary. Do you imagine a super-Christian, called to abandon family, friends and home to “go over there” to a remote and needy part of the globe? In the Great Commission in Matthew 28—Jesus’ final instructions to His disciples—the Greek word translated as “go” is literally translated “as you are going.” This command is not a calling for the select few to “go on a mission trip” or “go somewhere,” but a command for all of us to make disciples as we go along, wherever we may live. That is, God has called each one of us to live out His mission in the place where He has called us.

This isn’t just any mission, but one that touches every aspect of our lives. It is an everyday, all-encompassing mission.

In our everyday lives, we are to steward every area of life to accomplish God’s mission in the world. We are to see the world God left in our care as a mission field—a place where we compassionately and responsibly steward all that we are, and all that we have to help people flourish physically, socially, economically and spiritually as disciples of Jesus.

This comes back to seeing poverty as a result of broken people in broken relationships. God calls us to respond accordingly, seeking restoration and pursuing wholeness through Jesus. Regardless of what our daily life looks like, God calls us to give people a glimpse of the Kingdom of God by bringing compassion, justice, peace and the good news of Jesus to our neighbours and communities. Just as Jesus “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14), we make our dwelling in our communities, engaging in this everyday, all-encompassing mission.

That’s exactly what Karen Reed did. She bought a house in a Vancouver neighbourhood that has often been hostile toward Christianity, and began simply living among her neighbours. Her inspiration was Jeremiah 29:7: “Seek the peace and prosperity of the city...because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Reed says, “If the church is to be the foretaste of the Kingdom of God, how will people taste that unless we are among them, giving them a glimpse of how we handle conflict, live generously and joyfully?” She adds, “Neighbours aren’t projects but people to enjoy, love and invite into our lives. We aren’t bringing God into the neighbourhood either, but joining Him where He is already working.”

Joining with God and giving others a glimpse of His Kingdom sometimes involves walking and praying in the neighbourhood, organizing a refugee sponsorship, growing food and offering a community kitchen with a regular soup night for the neighbourhood. Reed is living as a missionary right where she is, caring for her neighbours spiritually, physically, socially and economically. “It provides a taste of the Kingdom,” says Reed. “People say the whole neighbourhood has changed.”

Christians are also at work being everyday missionaries around the world. Ronnie Kaweesa is Compassion Uganda’s water expert. Raised in the capital city of Kampala, he took for granted that he could turn on a tap and have water whenever he wanted. Growing up, he was interested in the sciences, and he wanted to find a way to use his gifts to serve God and others. As he began to see that many of his fellow Ugandans, especially in rural areas, did not have safe water or sanitation, Kaweesa decided to dedicate his career to bringing people safe water. He now works with local churches to educate the surrounding community in how to have safe water and sanitation practices. Kaweesa recognizes how caring for people physically is part of our all-encompassing mission as Christians: “All of life is a sacred act of worship, including the [water and sanitation] program. At the end of the day, Compassion is not just providing water; it is providing living water that brings health to the children and their families”.

Reed and Kaweesa's lives look very different from each other from the outside. But they are both being everyday missionaries in the way God has called and gifted them. They are both stewarding the resources God has given them to help broken people begin to find wholeness and health.

Some of us are called to go far away while others are called to stay local. But we are all called to participate as missionaries in the place we live. In the daily choices we make to serve and protect others, and in the words we speak that bring truth and light, we are Christ's messengers. We give Him our whole lives—every aspect of them—to benefit His Kingdom. We live as sojourners in this world, using all God has given us to bring Him glory and bring His message of mercy and hope to this world.

Over the last five weeks, we've absorbed a lot of information. We've considered what the spiritual roots of poverty are. We've looked at the four broken relationships that have resulted from the Fall. We've asked God to give us eyes to see what He sees. Now it's time to see the world around us as our mission field.



# Reflection

01

What does it mean to you to engage in a mission that touches all aspects of everyday life?

02

How might your work, your home and your relationships be places where you could help restore the results of the Fall?

03

Where do you think people might get a glimpse the Kingdom of God in the way you live?

# Action

As you live and work today, remind yourself that you are a missionary—called to participate in an everyday, all-encompassing mission, and to engage with people and work accordingly.

# Prayer

Lord, help us to live our lives in a way that gives people a glimpse or a taste of Your Kingdom. Help us make big and small choices to live as missionaries in the places You call us to, whether here or elsewhere. Use my whole life for Your Kingdom. Amen.

