

Defining Mission

- For many, 'mission' can be a confusing term.
- Often people treat church as a place where we wait to 'get to heaven', but that view makes our time on earth seem pointless.
- The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) shows us that mission is *for the world*.
- Mission is 'the Jesus mission', it has been happening for two thousand years.
- The Jesus mission goes forth based in three principles

1. Jesus' mission is about all lost people

- Jesus is a missionary, He is also much more, but in coming from heaven to earth He is a missionary.
- In Luke 19:1-10, Jesus enters the city of Jericho—many would have wanted his help with their dire physical, financial, and social situation.
- However, rather than answer them directly, Jesus goes to Zacchaeus' house.
- This shatters standard perceptions of mission, Jesus chooses to go to a rich tax collector first.
- People complain because tax collectors were corrupt collaborators with the Roman rule.
- But Jesus came to seek and save the all lost people (v10), not just those who would easily accept the message.
- His desire is to see all people saved (Matt. 28:19; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; Rev. 7.9).
- Jesus goes to the root of the problem, He works on a person's heart and soul.

2. Generosity is the essence of Jesus' Mission

- Jesus commands those He has walked with to give as freely as they have received (Matt. 10.8).
- It is more blessed to give than receive (Acts 20.35)
- Once Zacchaeus' encountered the Gospel, generosity flowed (Luke 19.8).
- Generosity is the willingness to give more than is expected or necessary.
- Jesus is generous, so we can't follow him without being generous.
- Generosity changes the world.
- We can measure the seeds we sow, but we cannot know the harvest it will reap.

3. The goal of Jesus' Mission is preaching the message of the cross

- There are countless needs in the world, much like the needs of Jericho, but it is the Gospel message of the cross that changes lives.
- Not enough to attempt to meet the needs if we don't change the heart.
- Matthew 13:33—this short parable shows that the Kingdom grows from within a person, and it flows out to something much bigger than what it started as.
- In Luke 19:8, Zacchaeus offers half his goods to the poor and to repay fourfold anything he had wrongly taken.
- Jesus solved Jericho's financial problem by preaching the Gospel to Zacchaeus!
- Don't be shy about the cross, because without preaching the cross our good work won't go far.

Discussion Questions

- Before hearing Christo speak, how would you have defined 'mission'?
- Generosity comes in many forms—offering time, presence, prayer, skills, and resources—when have you seen your generosity change someone or something?
- Why does it seem so difficult to preach the cross? What gets in the way?
- What would it look like to approach the problems you see like Jesus approached Jericho's problem?
- What benefits are there in engaging in Jesus' mission?