

# Our Mission Is More Than We Think

Message 04 of the series, "More"

## I. Jesus has given all of his followers a mission.

"...go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you." Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

"Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world... I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message." John 17:18, 20 (NLT)

## II. Our mission is more urgent than we think.

### a. Jesus is coming back soon.

"I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. They will say, 'What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? ...everything has remained the same since the world was first created.' ...But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along... And remember, the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved." 2 Peter 3:3-15 (NLT)

### b. Life is short.

"Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die. The wind blows, and we are gone—as though we had never been here." Psalm 103:15-16 (NLT)

### c. Those who die without a personal relationship with Jesus will spend eternity in hell.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23 (NIV)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

"...each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment..." Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)

"I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books... And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:12-15 (NLT)

*Note:* Jesus is the only person who can give us right standing with God.

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God." 1 Peter 3:18 (NLT)

"For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time." 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NLT) (See also John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

## III. Our mission is more doable than we think.

### a. We must become aware.

"You know the saying, 'Four months between planting and harvest.' But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest." John 4:35 (NLT)

### b. We must commit to prayer.

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

c. We must show we care.

“Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” 1 Corinthians 9:19 (NIV)

d. We must ready to share.

“...you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.” 1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)

*Note:* God will give us the power we need to accomplish our mission.

“So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.” 2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

#### **IV. Our mission is more rewarding than we think.**

“Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live!” Mark 8:35 (TLB)

“The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!” John 4:36 (NLT)

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#### **Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

Quotations to consider:

"I have one message: that Jesus Christ came, he died on a cross, he rose again, and he asked us to repent of our sins and receive him by faith as Lord and Savior, and if we do, we have forgiveness of all of our sins." Billy Graham

"Are you frustrated, bewildered, dejected, breaking under the strains of life? Then listen for a moment to me: Say yes to the Savior tonight, and in a moment you will know such comfort as you have never known." Billy Graham

"I have often said that the first thing I am going to do when I get to Heaven is ask: 'Why me, Lord? Why did You choose a farm boy from North Carolina to preach to so many people, to have such a wonderful team of associates, and to have a part in what You were doing in the latter half of the 20th century?'" Billy Graham

"Someone asked me recently if I didn't think God was unfair, allowing me to have Parkinson's and other medical problems when I have tried to serve him faithfully. I replied that I did not see it that way at all. Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to him in trust and confidence." Billy Graham

"I look forward to death with great anticipation. I'm looking forward to seeing God face to face, and that could happen any day." Billy Graham