



# THE GOSPEL AND MISSION

By Margretha Esprey  
Christian Centre Abbotsford

26 November 2023

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John 20:21 *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit."*

Our title has two key words, Gospel, and Mission.

## Gospel

God planned a wonderful life for mankind, but then sin came in and everything changed. Some tried to keep the law that had been given, but it was impossible for anyone to keep all of it and if every law was not kept, it was all worthless and **guilt remained**. **God's love** is so wonderful that He made a way for us, and so He sent Jesus. He came to take our punishment and He suffered and died on the cross of Calvary and when we put our trust in Him, confess our sin, get washed in the Blood and Jesus becomes Lord and Master of our lives, we are saved. How glorious!

Child of God, there was a day when God drew you, He put His hand on you and when the Gospel was shared with you, you knelt at the cross. You became a new person, you received a clean slate, were reconciled with the Father, He adopted you as His own son/daughter. *Galatians 4:6-7 "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba Father!' So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."* Your spirit was renewed, but then your soul had to be brought into line. A process started by you taking off and discarding the old man and putting on Jesus Christ. Your actions, attitudes, the way you think, the way you speak – all of these started changing and gradually you became more like Jesus. As you focus on Him and behold His glory, you are transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. I wonder how many of us are infused with His fragrance, how many are carrying the atmosphere of heaven.

Have you wondered why you were born? What are **God's plans for you**? What is your purpose? God designed a plan for your life before you were born, and I am sure you strongly desire to know what it is and to see it fulfilled in your life.

Our Scripture verse says that Jesus is sending you as the Father sent Him. So, it is important for us to know what the Father sent Jesus to do. What the **purpose of Jesus' life on earth was**, will tell you what you are being sent to do.

We find a number of Scriptures that describe the **purpose for Jesus' coming**.

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| Luke 4:18,19 – prophecy from Is 61. ....<br>The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me..... | John 6:38 – He came to do the will of His Father                   |
| Luke 19:10 – The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.                        | John 10- Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He goes after the lost sheep. |
| John 8:12 – Jesus said, I am the light of the world.                               | John 15:11 Jesus came to give us His joy.                          |

These are just some of the things that He came to do. Before anyone says that that was fine for Him, He was and is the Son of God, **I can't be expected to do any of these things, let me remind you that in Acts 10:38 we read that *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He then went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with***

*Him*. Jesus was born as a human being, and He did these things by the power of the Holy Spirit. This power is ours if we are baptized with the Holy Spirit!

Jesus did all of this for you, because of His great and awesome love for you. **He didn't wait** to love you till you had cleaned up your act. He paid an awesome price all because of His love for mankind.

Now He asks you to go and share this awesome Gospel with others. This is your mission.

## Mission

According to the Oxford dictionary a mission is an important assignment given to a person or group of people. Further it says it is the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith. Another definition of the word mission says it is the core purpose of an organization or company. It is a summary of the aims and core values. Sharing the gospel is our mission.

What are you going to do about it? Considering all of this, the awesome price Jesus paid for your salvation, do you feel that you dare to refuse what God asks of you? How can you ignore the request of Someone whose love for you is so amazing? **Don't you long for** others to experience the same joy and peace He has given you? **Don't you long** for Jesus to receive what He paid for? – People believing in Him and putting their trust in Him?

He wants you to be His ambassador, to represent Him and His kingdom in this world.

A good ambassador needs to have excellent knowledge of his home country and of the leader of that country. How will you obtain this knowledge? By reading and meditating on the Word, talking to God in prayer and listening to what He says to you – in this way you get to know Him better. This of course requires that you spend time in His presence. Something the ambassador has to be careful of, is the manner in which he lives, **because he doesn't** want people to criticize his king or his home country. In the same way you need to know the Lord and be totally loyal **to God's kingdom, the kingdom of which you are a citizen**. Be so full of Jesus that you radiate His presence, His light. In Ephesians 3:17-19 we read about Christ Jesus living in our hearts through faith, and that rooted and grounded in love you know the love of Christ so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Those verses burn in my heart – just consider that all the fullness of God may live in our hearts!

Maybe all of this sounds a bit overwhelming, but please **don't** feel that it is too difficult and that **you'll just have to forget about being a good ambassador**. God is not looking for perfect people, He is looking for His people to make themselves available for His use. If you yield yourself to Him and His service, and you say, **"Lord, use me, don't let my life be in vain,"** He takes your hand and He guides you, He trains you and makes you able. He has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us, to give us boldness, to remove fear of people from us, He teaches us and reminds us of what Jesus said. Remember that when you were born again, Jesus came to dwell within you by His Spirit, so give Him free reign in your life – let Him live through you – not you striving to be like Him. He wants to be the One who lives through you, who acts and speaks through you. So just yield to Him.

## Holy Spirit

Sharing the Gospel with others can be done by everybody who has come to Jesus and has made Him Lord of their lives. But let us remember that when Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and make disciples, He said that they should wait in Jerusalem until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit who would give them boldness to witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth. This tells you to start at home, then your workplace and neighbourhood and then further and further afield. This boldness to witness that happened in **Peter's life**, can be yours! Paul Yonggi Cho who was the pastor of the huge church in South

Korea said that the blessing and success of our preaching is in direct proportion to the depth of our fellowship with our senior partner, the Holy Spirit.

If you are still nervous about sharing, just start by chatting to one person, saying something about what Jesus means to you, or has done for you. **After you've** shared with one, it will become easier to do it again and again. **Don't just rush up to someone and start preaching** to him – that will probably frighten him away, make him angry, or simply make him think that you are a weirdo. Become a friend and gradually start talking about what Jesus does for you, how He helps you and what He means to you. That way you stand a greater chance of winning him. When you see someone looking sad, tell him that Jesus loves him, that He cares for him and maybe ask whether you can help in some way, or even pray for him. When the person shows an interest, explain how Jesus has paid the price for him and all he has to do is to confess that he has sinned, ask Jesus to wash him clean, and to be His Lord.

The mission we are talking about is not necessarily going to faraway places, although that is also very NB, but there is a vast mission field right here around us, here in East London, or wherever you go. Something that we must keep in mind is that we must be honest – **don't** pretend that you are holy and perfect. Be honest and share that you are still growing in Jesus and you desire to become more like Him. If you are witnessing to a family member, or anyone else who knows you quite well, remember that they know your weak areas and especially after you start witnessing to someone, they are going to watch the way you behave, and the devil will love to make you stumble. Christ is in you and the Holy Spirit will strengthen you. **Don't give up when everyone you are sharing with doesn't come to Jesus** immediately, your duty is to share, to sow the seeds, the Holy Spirit's task is to convict and draw the person to Christ and if the timing is not right, He will do it in His time. The Holy Spirit is with a person and draws him to Christ. At his conversion the Spirit comes into him and when he is baptized in the Holy Spirit He comes upon him. The Holy Spirit plays a big role! In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul says that one sows, another waters, but God gives the growth.

The Lord may make it clear to you that He needs you to be His light in your workplace. There is a desperate need for this in the marketplace. Should the Lord ask you to resign from your present occupation, step out in faith and maybe become an evangelist, a pastor of a church or a missionary, will you be willing to listen to Him, will you trust Him and do it? These are most certainly not the only ways – every work situation, every family group, needs you, needs your God influence, they need you to introduce and carry the atmosphere of heaven – that is vitally important, as important as any so-called full-time ministry, but I am asking that you consider in your heart whether you will be willing for anything.

**I'll never forget the day when I lay on my face** before the Lord and said to Him that I would go anywhere, do anything, whatever He asked of me. Within half an hour a gentleman who I did not know asked me, saying, "Sister will you come and preach in my church?" I asked him where his church was, thinking that it would be a short distance from where we were. When he said that it was in Kampala in Uganda, I had a fright – I had always had a kind of fear of mission work. At that time, I had not been anywhere in Africa, north of SA. I was shocked and said and tried to make excuses and he said that whether you are the pastor of a church or not, **"it doesn't matter, God has spoken!"** That afternoon I clearly heard the Lord saying in my heart that He had given me an open door and if I did not accept it, I should not continue asking for open doors. How could I refuse my Lord? I simply said, **"Yes Lord, I'll do it, but You will** have to make the way." Well, He did, and I spent many years traveling, usually twice, sometimes three times, each year, to different countries, very often to Kenya, but also a number of times to Uganda and also to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and India.

The fear that I had of mission work, left – and I must share that I clearly recall that as a little girl sitting on my bed, I said, **"Please Jesus, don't ever** ask me to be a missionary." **I had just read** a book about a missionary, and the places he went and the conditions frightened the living daylights out of me! When He sent me, all fear disappeared, and I started feeling totally at home living with people in different countries. I must admit that the very first evening I arrived in Kenya, had been met by a pastor at the roadside, had walked along muddy paths for about

twenty minutes and then, at sunset was invited into a dark little mud house, with no lights, no running water, I was a bit concerned, but the next morning when we walked to a little mud church some distance away and I started sharing the WORD of God, all fear ran out the doorway and it was a time of glory and joy.

While in India the following year, that was in 2005, having travelled from the very north where I had ministered with a group of others, to the southern part and was working with a pastor in and around Chennai, the taxi we had used to travel to a church way out of the city for an evening meeting, got stuck in a massive pothole and two wheels were damaged. We had to wade through a big swampy area to get to a place where we could get other transport. I walked praising the Lord, filled with joy, because it felt just like the kind of circumstances in the book I had read and then had asked the Lord not to ever ask me to be a missionary!!

The reason I'm telling you these stories is to assure you that Jesus doesn't ask you to do things that He does not enable you to do, so do not fear. He is a wonderful and loving God. Without any fear you can commit your whole future to Him. He will never lead you in a wrong way, and to crown it all, He knows your circumstances better than you do yourself. In every season of my life, I've experienced that the Lord knew when one thing should stop, and another should begin.

Many of us will probably visit family or have people visiting us during the coming Christmas holidays – what a mission field! Opportunities will most probably arise where you can share something about Jesus. Use every opportunity to share something about the difference Jesus has made in your life.

Reach out in your community, get involved in doing something that will be a testimony of the goodness of God. Remember that good works will never save anybody, but once you are saved, you have a desire to do the good things that God prepared for you to do. May your life in the office, in the workshop, at school, college or university, and especially at home, be such that others will know and will see that there is something, Someone, special in you.

God prepared a plan for your life even before you were born. The Holy Spirit within the child of God knows the mind of God and intercedes for him **in accordance with God's plans.** So, listen to Him. **It's not difficult, you'll know in your heart.** Don't squash the Holy Spirit when He speaks to you. Become involved in the part of the mission that He is calling you to.

Remember our verse, "AS THE FATHER SENT ME SO SEND I YOU."

He is sending you. Will you go?

**You don't have to wait for a calling,** you have received it, He said, **"Go and make disciples."** Was it only for those 11 disciples? I believe not. A disciple is a follower, so if you are walking with Jesus, following Him, you are one of His disciples and these words apply to you. At some stage the Lord may call you into other specific areas or service also, but the basic one of sharing the Gospel is for everybody.

Dare you disobey? - not because of fear of what might happen if you disobey, but because of His great love that fills your heart and your longing to see others experience it too.

This is a simple message, but will you act upon it?