

## **Mission of The Church**

Starters:

1. Where is/was the Church? When you hear this statement (perhaps at a time of national tragedy or social breakdown), what comes into your mind?
2. What do you think is the role of the Church?

In our Induction Workshop, we looked at *Missio Dei* and highlighted 3 things;

### 1. God saving a people for Himself

- Titus 2:13-14 – Jesus saves a people for himself
- God saves a people because of love and for love, to be theirs and then his, to dwell with them: Exodus 6:6-8; 15:13,17; 19:4; 29:46

### 2. God extending His Kingdom

As part of His Mission, God not only intended for Him to be known amongst the Jews alone, but He first reveals Himself through them and prepares them to receive the Messiah, but through them He reveals Himself and His plans to the Nations. Will look at Exodus, and show how God works amongst the heathen nation of Egypt.

- Through the great salvation/judgment event the Egyptians (and even the whole earth) come to know who the LORD is: Exodus 5:2; 7:17; 8:22; 9:16; 14:4
- Foretastes of salvation extending to the Gentiles: Exodus 12:38, 48; 18:8-12

### 3. God ascribing worship for Himself

The Mission of God is all for His Glory. Mission exists for God. He saves that Glory and Worship be directed to Him alone

- Mission exists because worship doesn't (J. Piper)
- Exodus 3:12; 4:31; 12:27; 34:5-8 cf. Matthew 2:10-11; 28:17

*“It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his Church in the world, as that God has a Church for His mission in the world. Mission was not made for the Church; the Church was made for mission- God's mission”* Chris Wright

## **Getting the Whole Story:**

1. Creation
  - a. Good/perfect
  - b. Man – to subdue & rule, tend, worship
  - c. God glorified
2. Fall
  - a. Tainted
  - b. Reversal
  - c. Selfishness
  - d. Separation, Death
  - e. Curse, Wrath

3. Redemption
  - a. Through His Son - He reconciles all things to God through Cross (Col. 1:15-230)
  - b. Romans 8 - the whole creation groans
4. Consummation/New Creation
  - a. Judgment & Salvation
  - b. Isaiah 65-66
  - c. Rev. 20-22

We need to get the whole story right before we can think about mission clearly otherwise we'll have a deficient view.

### **The Church's Primary Aim;**

Bible Study; Acts 6:1 – 7

- What is happening? Right from Acts 1.
- What is the Church involved in? How does this fit in with Matthew 28?
- What Problem Arises?
- What is the Solution?
- So, what is the Mission of the Church?

Listen to what MLJ said in his book *Preaching & Preachers*, “But, and in many ways the most interesting statement of all, I sometimes think in this connection, is one that is found in the sixth chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles where we are told that a great crisis arose in the life of the early Church. I know of nothing that speaks more directly upon the present state and condition of the Church, and what is her primary task, than this sixth chapter of the book of the Acts of the Apostles. The essential message is in the first two verses: ‘*And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve tables.*’

This is surely a most interesting and important statement, a crucial one. What was the Church to do? Here is a problem, here are these widows of the Grecians, and they are not only widows but they are in need and in need of food. *It was a social problem, perhaps partly a political problem, but certainly a very acute and urgent social problem.* Surely the business of the Christian Church, and the leaders particularly, is to deal with this crying need: Why go on preaching when people are starving and in need and are suffering? That was the great temptation that came to the Church immediately; but the Apostles under the leading and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the teaching they had already received, and the commission they had had from their Master, saw the danger and they said, ‘*It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God, and serve tables*’. This is wrong. We shall be failing in our commission if we do this. We are here to preach this Word, **this is the first thing**, ‘*We will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word.*’

Now there the priorities are laid down once and for ever. This is the primary task of the Church, the primary task of the leaders of the Church, the people who are set in this position of authority; and we must not allow anything to deflect us from this, however good the cause, however great the need. This is surely the direct answer to much of the false thinking and reasoning concerning these matters at the present time. (*Preaching and Preachers*, 29-30)

“The primary task of the Church and of the Christian Minister is the Preaching of the Word of God.”

I think we need to affirm this.

### **DeYoung & Gilbert Definition**

“The Mission of the Church is to go into the world and make disciples by declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit and gathering these disciples into Churches, that they may worship the Lord and obey His commands now and in eternity, to the glory of God the Father.” (*What is the Mission of the Church*, DeYoung & Gilbert)

1. Going- where? Who?
  - a. Global focus- the whole world.
  - b. Both the local and the universal
  - c. Not about people coming

*Christian Mission in the Modern World* begins with questions every generation must wrestle with:

“What should be the church’s relation to the world? What is a Christian’s responsibility toward his non-Christian relatives, friends, and neighbors, and indeed to the whole non-Christian community?” (19).

2. Making disciples
  - a. Whose disciples?
  - b. Are converts enough?
3. How? Preaching... Gathering... Worship... Obedience
  - a. What is the Content?
  - b. What if there’s no preaching?
4. Glory

### **What About Social Justice... Advocacy... Philanthropism... Politics?**

Does the church have a role to play in this things?

### **What about Creation Care and Renewal?**

## **Kenyan situation**

Corruption

Tribalism

Theft & Swindling

1. Proclaiming
2. Practice
3. Pastoral
4. Prophetic role
5. Plead the cause for the Poor