

**MISSION: CALLING OTHERS INTO
RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS.**

Matt 9:13-26

(from New International Version)

THEME:

Bringing others into a relationship with Jesus and into God's kingdom.

Grace, peace and mercy, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, we're talking about bringing others into a relationship with Jesus so that they enter into God's kingdom. In a nutshell, we are talking about MISSION and how others can have a relationship with God through Jesus. So how do we view the world that we live in: in it's current context? Is it too fast; has the whole world gone mad and crazy?

Worldview, we must have all thought about it: we must all have a worldview fixed in our heads, shouldn't we?

My worldview would be a lot different from yours, simply because of whom I am and of how I grew up and what influences shaped my life. Just like each and every one of you would have been raised differently from each other. I see things differently from you as you would see things differently from me.

One example of difference is that I see things such as material possessions as being of no real significance to me; being a single man and what I desire etc, whereas you as married people would see them as being very significant to you.

Now apart from that and perhaps a whole lot of other things: there is one worldview that we both have in

common is our faith. We all have Christ in our lives, and he makes a world of difference to it.

That is what makes our view on life a lot different from the person who does not believe or has faith in Christ. Which is sad because we all know what is going to happen to those people who are outside of Christ and where they will spend eternity. They are on a one way ticket to hell, going there at a hundred miles an hour or faster.

But instead of dwelling on it; why don't we do something about it! Because we can! For Jesus says in verse 13, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice, for I have not come to call the righteous, but the sinners". It's unmistakable in what Jesus is saying. He came so that all may live and to live life abundantly; he also left the legacy that Christians should focus on their mission for winning souls for Christ's kingdom.

There are a few characters in the Bible who were told to do God's work in saving the lives of people who are going to hell; one of them was Jonah. Of course he tried to jump ship and go in the opposite direction, but God channelled him in the right direction in the inhabitants of Nineveh to repent of their sins so as to save their souls from destruction.

God achieved his purpose; even though Jonah was a reluctant participant in doing his will. We may be reluctant when we hear God's challenges being given to us [and because we doubt we are the right people for the job], but God will always accomplish if we avail ourselves to him. These days, God uses Christians [you and me] as his instruments to reach out to other people who are lost in their sins.

In today's gospel story, we see Jesus rightly as the Saviour who brings a young girl back from the dead and restores her life. And he also saves a woman from a long

time illness affliction that was affecting her body, health, wealth and mind. Yet it was her faith that helped in her healing as well as Jesus' willingness in allowing his power and goodness to go into her sick body to heal her.

He showed his mercy on both of these females and what had befallen them. He did not leave them lost in the condition they were in.

How many people do you know that are lost in the conditions they are currently in? in the fact that they definitely need Jesus in their lives this very moment even as we speak; even though they mightn't think so? In your worldview and in mine, we would all have to agree that there would be many, many lost people living in this world who are destined for eternal damnation. Unless, of course, we can reach out to them and they respond likewise to us.

And even if they don't think they are lost in their sin, revelling in the flesh, caught up in the world and all its woes and being messed up by the devil, they need to be told so. Jesus took the time to be with the lost when he walked upon the earth, and he told them what they were really missing out on: how could we not possibly do the same as well?

Personally, some of the people whom I know that are lost to hell, include members from my own family [its sad to say]. Many think they can live a life that's full and complete that they don't need God in it. They really do need a wake up call, because I believe they are kidding themselves and are living in a falsehood, a world of fairytales and fantasy.

And if they do suddenly arise to the challenge about changing the way they live, then I'm going to be one person who needs to be there for them. To give them a helping hand in showing them that Jesus is definitely the

way, the truth and the life. Simply because: there is no other way; there is no other life, than through the one that God gives through his beloved Son Jesus.

Jesus also delivers his people [the Church] from the deadliest enemy of all; the curse of sin. How wonderful it is to have our sins forgiven. And when we acknowledge that they are forgiven, we don't have to wallow in our own self pity and doubt, feeling oppressed and miserable all the time. This is the gospel story that is very relevant in this day and age.

We have to give people what we've got. They need to be having what we're having. We've got to tell and show them that there is a way to live that leads to eternal salvation. That there is a life that goes on well and truly after the body has died, and has been put into the ground to decay. As the song say: 'I've got something that the world can't give, and the world can't take it away''.

Another example is in Acts 3:1-10, where Peter and John went to the Temple to pray, where they met a blind, lame man along the way begging for alms, "Silver and gold have I none...in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk". There they gave him the best gift of all, they gave him Jesus. He went away walking and leaping. There are enough stories in the Bible that lead to a better life living with Christ than to be lived without him in it.

As we see in this gospel story; Jesus gives life where there is none, because death is simply no barrier to him at all. Jesus reached out his hand and restored the life of the young girl. Once when I was in the grip of gloom and despair, I wrote these words to a song: 'He took me by the hand, showed to me the Promised Land, Paradise is waiting for me!' All of our hearts should go out to those who are hopelessly lost in their sin and are facing eternal death and damnation.

If we can; let's take some lost person by the hand and lead them into eternal life to Jesus Christ our Lord, simply because we can, and we are called to do so.

So, what happens when people are brought into the kingdom of God? Immediately in heaven, there is joy and rejoicing over a sinner who was lost and is now found [Luke 15:7]. These people also have their name written in the Lamb's Book of Life [Rev 21:27]. Whoever's name is not found in there will be tossed into the Lake of Fire [Rev 20:15].

Just to wrap up, there may be people whom our hearts go out to and we may have given up on them. And we may also have it in our minds that they are too far gone or too cold in their hearts for us to even dare to think that speaking out about our faith may make a difference to them. Remember this, when we think that all life is gone in someone, God knows better, he can make life exist where none has existed.

Lost people may be just waiting for someone to come along and invite them along to church or they may just want some one to talk to them simply because they don't quite know how to do it. You may be that person that is the instrument that is placed in their way; God will use us when he sees fit.

Finally, extend the hand of God to them, because he extended his loving hands to you. The more people who populate heaven, the better it will be for those in it, and the less emptier hell will be for Satan and his demons. Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.