

Missio Dei

A Worship Series on the Mission of God

Missional Church (3 of 6)

Sermon Series Focus

- ***Missio Dei*** means “the mission of God” and refers to the “sending” of God—his missionary heart for the world
- This series looks at how God’s missionary heart is both the spark and the fuel of local ministry and church growth
- From the beginning of creation in the OT, to Jesus and the explosion of the early church in the NT, we see that all of God’s redemptive activity has indeed been missional
- Just as the Father sent his Son, and the Son sent us the Spirit, we will see that the church is meant to be Christ’s *missional* Body—his hands and feet to our neighbors

The Purpose of *Missio Dei*

1. To understand that the term “missional” is not something new and trendy; it’s a biblical concept
2. To discover what it means to be *missional* in our own context; to see ourselves not only as a church that sends, but as a church that is sent to her surrounding culture
3. To help us as an Anabaptist church begin to articulate a fresh new mission and vision for the next season of ministry among the people of the New River Valley
4. To inspire us to intentionally seek God’s will for CMF as we pray, dream, and imagine greater things to come
5. To call out and call forth passionate disciples with God’s missionary heart for those in our sphere of influence

Missio Dei in Six Sermons

1. Missional God (the genesis of mission)
2. Missional Jesus (mission embodied)
3. **Missional Church** (mission multiplied)
4. Missional Leaders (mission pioneered)
5. Missional Living (mission contextualized)
6. Missional Movement (mission impossible)

What is the Missional Church?

- The *missional* church is the local expression of Christ's body sent out to continue the work of the Missio Dei
- The missional church sees herself first and foremost as a "sent" body & not simply a "come to us" community
- The missional church seeks to make disciples who make disciples, not converts who just come to church
- The missional church always seeks to call people into deeper relationships with one another and with Christ
- The missional church builds a discipling culture with language and practices that reflect real disciple-making

Luke 5:1-5 NLT

¹ One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ² He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³ Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." ⁵ "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

Luke 5:6-11 NLT

⁶ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷ A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

⁸ When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m too much of a sinner to be around you.”

⁹ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. ¹⁰ His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” ¹¹ And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Matthew 28:16-20 NLT

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, John 20:21-22 NIV

“No one accidentally creates disciples. Discipleship is an intentional pursuit.”

Bart Breen, *Building a Discipling Culture*

Dallas Willard said:

“The two most important questions a church should be asking are: (1) What is our plan for making disciples? (2) Is our plan working?”

Jesus' Method for Making Disciples

1. Disciples must first commit to doing life with one another—**gathering regularly** for worship and being intentionally present and active in the church;
2. According to Jesus' model of ministry, there are **intimate spaces** (2-3 people), **personal spaces** (6-12 people), **social spaces** (20-70 people) and **public spaces** (75 +); his followers see the unique role and benefits of each space for growing as disciples;
3. Jesus made us aware of the healthy balance involving the **UP, IN, & OUT**—relationships between the Father (UP), the church community (IN), and the world (OUT).

Hebrews 10:23-25 (VOICE)

²³ Let us hold strong to the confession of our hope, never wavering, since the One who promised it to us is faithful.

²⁴ Let us consider how to inspire each other to greater love and to righteous deeds, ²⁵ not forgetting to gather as a community, as some have forgotten, but encouraging each other, especially as the day *of His return* approaches.

“We come together regularly as a collective body to be equipped through teaching, prayer, worship, and study and then to be sent out into the world.”

Lance Ford & Brad Brisco

The Missional Quest: Becoming a Church of the Long Run

Jesus Cultivated Faith in a Variety of “Spaces” for Holistic Ministry

Jesus *regularly* invested in the following spaces:

- **Intimate Spaces** – His inner circle: Peter, James, & John
- **Personal Spaces** – His 12 disciples; the family at Bethany
- **Social Spaces** – His larger network of disciples who cooperated to learn and be about missional efforts (e.g. the “other” disciples, including the “70” sent out)
- **Public Spaces** – His broader audience made up of followers, as well as seekers, skeptics, and enemies (e.g. in the Temple, synagogues, countryside, etc.)

From Our Website

“Our church services are a **public space** for participating and experiencing corporate worship and preaching from the Scriptures. A few **personal space** opportunities would be Sunday School, Bible studies, and/or joining a small group near you. And you can invest in an **intimate space** by being a part of a *Life Transformation Group*—a same gender group of 3-4 people meant for discipleship and accountability.”

Excerpt from “Mission & Vision” page

<http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org/mission-vision/>

The Missional Jesus Deepened the UP, IN, & OUT Relationships

- Jesus often began and ended his day in communication with the Father; his mission flowed out of the energy the Father provided him in prayer and solitude
- Jesus spent the vast majority of his ministry with his disciples, not just teaching them or “fellowshipping” with them, but showing them how to do mission
- Jesus was always on the lookout for the “lost sheep of Israel” and “the sick” of the world; he intentionally put himself and his disciples in the path and the presence of unbelievers, going to them as well as receiving them

The Greatest Threat to the Missio Dei and the Missional Church

- We have a real spiritual enemy (*diabolos*) whose strategy is “to scatter” God’s ordering Spirit and his Missio Dei;
- These divisive forces of the enemy and the world are scattering our minds, our families, and our church;
- If we’re always scattered, we’re not gathering in any way that allows the church to be a formidable force for the Kingdom where we live, work, and worship;
- When there is more scattering than gathering, our church will not be able to make disciples or build any missional momentum that the Spirit uses to propel us forward;
- Intentional prayer is the appropriate response.

Missional Church – Lessons For Us

- If we want to be a missional church we first must desire that our fellowship grow and adjust our practices;
- If we want to be a missional church we must have a core group of disciples who are regularly and intentionally present and active in *all* spaces of the church;
- If we want to be a missional church it will require that we sacrifice and invest our time in deepening our faith, where Christ and the church become central in our lives;
- If we want to be a missional church we will need to share Christ's burning fire for the Missio Dei, that our lost and sick neighbors might become disciples on mission too.

Acts 1:6-8 NLT

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org