



# Made for a Mission

## Chapters 36 & 37

Notes: This Bible Study is intended to be a companion to "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren. The Scripture references in this Bible study are taken from the New King James Version.

### Chapter 36: Made for a Mission

#### What distinction does Rick Warren make between our ministry and our mission?

Our ministry is our service to fellow believers within the church and our mission is our assignment to take the message of Christ to unbelievers in the world. Fulfilling our mission in the world is God's fifth purpose for our lives.

John 20:21 - So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you!

As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Our English word mission comes from the Latin word for sending.

#### How is the mission that the Father gave Jesus related to the mission that Jesus gave us?

The mission Jesus had on earth is now our mission because we are the Body of Christ. What Jesus did in His physical body, we now do as his spiritual body: make it possible for people to have an eternal relationship with God.

2 Corinthians 5:18 - Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

#### What does Matthew 28:19-20 have to say about the importance of the mission Jesus gave us?

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The Great Commission is a **command** that Jesus repeated five times, in five different ways, in five different books of the Bible (also Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8).

#### Who was the Great Commission given to?

The Great Commission was given to every follower of Jesus, not just Pastors and missionaries. If you are truly part of God's family, you are acting in disobedience if you are not doing your part to fulfill the Great Commission. This

act of disobedience is also known as committing a sin of omission.

#### Does God hold us responsible for the spiritual condition of those around us?

God does not hold us responsible for their spiritual condition but He does hold us responsible for warning them about the consequences of their spiritual condition...

Ezekiel 3:18 - 'When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

We may be the only Christian some people will ever know... if we don't tell them about Jesus, we are depriving them of best opportunity they may ever have to respond to Him.

#### How does 2 Corinthians 6:1 show the importance of our mission?

2 Corinthians 6:1 - We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

God has given us a great privilege to work with Him toward the same goal.

#### How does 2 Corinthians 5:20 show the great privilege God has given us in our mission?

2 Corinthians 5:20 - Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Not only do we get to work with God, we represent Him.

#### How does Acts 4:12 show the importance of our mission?

Acts 4:12 - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Telling others how they can have eternal life is the greatest thing you can do for them. If you had a cure of cancer, it would be criminal to withhold it from others. It is even worse to keep secret the way to forgiveness, purpose, peace and eternal life.

#### How does John 9:4 show the importance of our mission?

John 9:4 - I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

Our mission has eternal significance since it will impact the eternal destiny of other people. Anything else we spend our time on has no value outside this world which is destined to be burned up. There is limited time to help others to know God so we should make good use of our time.

### **Does this mean we should quit our job to become a full-time evangelist?**

Now, God placed you where you are at for a purpose. Full-time evangelists can not reach all the people you can where you are working. We just need to be ready to share the gospel with those God puts in our path where ever we are working.

### **How does Acts 20:24 show the importance of our mission?**

Acts 20:24 - But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. Our mission gives our life meaning. William James said, "the best use of life is to spend it on something that outlasts it." Only the Kingdom of God outlasts our life so this is what the wise will spend their life on. If you fail to fulfill your God-given mission on earth, you will have wasted your life. If only one person will be in heaven because of you, your life will have made a difference for eternity. A good question to ask is, "God who have you put in my life for me to tell them about Jesus?"

### **How does Acts 1:7-8 show the importance of our mission?**

Acts 1:7-8 - And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." God's timetable for the conclusion of history is tied to the completion of our Great Commission. In response to the disciples wanting to know when the Lord would return, He said that they should focus on evangelism instead of the timing of this event.

### **Why would the Lord put more importance on evangelism than the timing of His return?**

Knowing when the Lord would return is futile...

Matthew 24:36 - But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. We know that Jesus will not return until everyone whom He wants to hear the Good News has heard it...

Matthew 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

If we want Jesus to return sooner, we should focus on fulfilling our mission, not on figuring out when He might return. The quicker the church fulfills its mission, the quicker the Lord will return...

2 Peter 3:11-12 - Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and **hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

### **Why does Satan want to thwart God's plan to disseminate the Good News?**

Satan wants to delay the Lord's return indefinitely. The longer it takes for the Lord to return, the longer he gets to rule the nations.

### **How should we regard the distractions Satan and his minions throw our way that would keep us from spreading the Good News?**

Jesus said that we should not let anything distract us from the work He as planned for us; if we do, we are not fit for His Kingdom...

Luke 9:62 - But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

### **What fears keep Christians from fulfilling the Great Commission?**

A big one is the fear of rejection since there is extra pressure from society to avoid religious topics because it is not politically correct to try to impose your beliefs on others. But this attitude is really illogical when you think about it. Those who fear discussing religious topics must believe that a simple conversation can brainwash a person. Certainly there is such a thing as brainwashing, but this only occurs in cases where there is coercion by some sort of threat. Brainwashing is not a concern in a pluralistic society such as ours where it is possible to have a free and open exchange of ideas.

## **Chapter 37: Sharing Your Life Message**

### **Why do Christians sometimes feel that they do not have a good testimony about God to share with people?**

The devil wants to keep Christians from sharing their testimony because this is what God uses to save people. But each of us has unique experiences that enable us to be a witness for God...

I John 5:10 - He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself

### **What are the four parts to our Life Message that Rick Warren addresses?**

1. We have a **testimony** of how we began our relationship with Jesus.
2. We have **life lessons** that God has taught us.
3. We have **godly passions** that the Lord has given us.
4. We have the **Good News** about salvation.

### **How are Christians witnesses for having a personal relationship with God?**

We have had personal experiences with God that has reinforced the step of faith that we took by believing in Him.

Witnesses simply report what happened to them.

Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

### **What is the power in the testimony from a witness?**

Your experience is a unique one from a perspective that no one else have. No want can argue with the testimony you can share because you are the sole authority on what you experienced.

### **How can your testimony be more effective than a sermon from a pastor?**

Unbelievers are often skeptical of what they hear from pastors because they see them as professional salesmen. On the other hand, your testimony is seen as coming from a "satisfied customer" so you have more credibility with them.

### **How can the story of your experiences with God be more effective than a Bible tract?**

Most unbelievers don't even accept the authority of the Bible but they will listen to a humble, personal story. This is why Paul used his testimony 5 times to share the gospel rather than quoting Scripture in Acts 22-26.

#### **Consider:**

1 Peter 3:15 - always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear

### **What is the best way to be prepared to share your testimony?**

Write it out, Rick Warren suggests dividing it into four parts:

1. What my life was like before I met Jesus
2. How I realized I needed Jesus
3. How I committed my life to Jesus
4. The difference Jesus has made in my life

### **Besides your conversion story, what other things might you have a testimony about?**

You may have a crisis or other problems that God brought your thorough. Some of your experiences may be more effective with certain people than others. God can give you discernment as to which testimony would be better for a given situation.

### **The second part of our Life Message is our Life Lessons... what are life lessons?**

Life lessons are the truths that God has taught us from our experiences with Him. This includes insights you have learned about God, relationships, problems, temptations and other aspects of life.

### **Besides your own experiences, can you learn from the experiences of others?**

A wise person also learns from the experiences of others...

Proverbs 25:12 - Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

### **What is a good way to remember your life lessons?**

Write them down. Rick Warren's book has a good set of questions to get you started with this on page 292. Some of the lessons God has taught me are...

Failure – there is a time and season for everything.

Lack of money – we can get by on less than we think.

Pain – focus on Jesus to ease the pain, this too shall pass

Waiting – it usually results in a better outcome

Illness – this draws us closer to God & He heals us

Disappointment – all things work together for good...

Others – relationships are more important than things

### **The third way to share your Life Message is through your godly passions. What is a godly passion?**

A godly passion is something you care deeply about that God is also passionate about. It may be a passion about a problem, purpose, principle, or a group of people. It is something you feel compelled to speak up about every time you have the opportunity.

Matthew 12:34 - out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

David expressed the passions he had that he shared with God...

Psalms 69:9 - Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Jeremiah did as well...

Jeremiah 20:9 - But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.

### **How does God give you a passion to share with Him?**

It is often a problem that you had yourself such as abuse, addiction, infertility, depression, a disease, or some other difficulty. Sometimes God gives people a burden to speak

up for people who can't speak for themselves: the unborn, the persecuted, the poor, imprisoned, or those denied justice.

**Why does God give different people different passions?**

God give different passions to people so that everything He wants done will get done. So we should not expect other to be passionate about the same things we are passionate about.

**The fourth part of our Life Message is that it includes the Good News. What is the Good News in 2 Corinthians 5:19?**

2 Corinthians 5:19 - that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

That God Himself in the person of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for the sin of those who trust in Him. And He uses those who trust in Him the spread the good news.

**What is the number one thing we need to learn to be effective in sharing the Good News?**

We need to learn to love lost people the way God does.

2 Corinthians 5:14 - For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

God loved lost people so much that He died for us.

**What is the problem if we are afraid to share the Good News with other people?**

We need to be better at loving them...

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

A parent will run into a burning building to rescue their child because their love for them is greater than their fear. If fear is keeping us from sharing the Good News, we need to ask God with help in loving people.

**How long should we keep sharing the Good News and praying for those who refuse to yield their lives to the Lord?**

We should not give up on people as long as they are alive because God doesn't...

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

**What does Colossians 4:5 have to say about how we should go about sharing the Good News?**

Colossians 4:5 - Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

We need to continually be considering how to use the resources and opportunities God has given us to be in a position to share the Good News about Him.

***The Purpose Driven Life* describes God's five purpose for your life on earth: He made us to be a *member* of His family, a *model* of His character, a *magnifier* of His glory, a *minister* of His grace and a *messenger* of His Good News. Which of these five purposes can only be done in this world?**

We can only be a messenger of His Good News in this world. We will be doing the other four in eternity. That is why spreading the Good News is so important.