

# **St Martins C3 – March 5, 2023**

## **On Mission Together – Grow Together**

### **Sermon Notes:**

Through this series, we have been expressing a value:

***It is our desire for every St Martins C3 member to commit to discipling relationships where they invest in others and others invest in them to grow closer to Christ, live a Christian lifestyle and fulfil their mission to the world.***

We encourage everyone to join a connect group and practice care, move others towards God, and help them find and express their ministry and mission. It is this final part we focus on in this morning's message - all Christians are called to be involved in mission and ministry.

### **Read Ephesians 2:10**

We all together are called to do the good things God has planned for us. God wants us to minister to other people. He has a mission field for each of us.

### **What is Christian Mission?**

Our mission is very similar to the mission that Jesus gave to His followers when He first gathered them together. To bring the Kingdom of God. This means telling others that God, the ruler of all things, has broken into the world through Jesus, and everything that was wrong with the world can be made right.

## **Read Luke 9:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20**

Our mission and ministry are found whenever we bring God's renewal to the situations in our world and especially when we preach the gospel and plead with people to trust in Jesus with their life.

If you are doing these things, you are doing mission and ministry. This is the success and goal of our lives. But it is not some individual endeavour, instead, it is something we need to do together!

## **Read Philippians 1:27**

### **How do we do mission together?**

We want connect groups to make time to discuss how ministry and mission are going in each person's life. As we have these discussions, we achieve three purposes:

- 1 – We help each other define our mission and ministry
- 2 – We encourage each other
- 3 – We consider ways to do mission together

We encourage you to go on that journey with other people in your life. Then, together, we might do our part in seeing the whole world renewed. We will also be ready when God calls us as a community to reach out to St Martins and see His Kingdom come in this area.

## **Thoughts and Questions for Connect Groups:**

*In connect groups we want to explore the answers to three main questions:*

- How can the group support you?*
- How are you growing closer to God or more like Him?*
- How can we encourage you in the mission and ministry God has called you to do?*

*How natural is it to ask each of these questions? If one feels more unnatural why is that?*

*What differences could we see in our church if we were more intentional in supporting each other in ministry?*

*What does it mean that our mission is to bring the Kingdom of God to our world?*

*What do you think of the idea that all Christians are called to minister to others?*

*Where has God called you to minister and bring the Kingdom of God at the moment?*

*How is sharing the gospel with others still a vital part of bringing the Kingdom of God?*

*How can others support you in your ministry and mission?*

## **Monday Devotion: Plead for Mercy**

***Read: Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 18:16-33***

This week as we look at the mission every Christian is called to, we look back over God's mission for all of His people. As we survey the past we see that God called people to do this mission as a whole people, but they each had tasks within that mission.

God called Abraham to be a blessing to all people. He confirmed this call in Genesis 18:18-19 and stated that this would come as Abraham did what was right and acted with justness.

He then allowed Abraham to prove that he was up to the task. Abraham passes with flying colours as he pleads for mercy on corrupt Sodom.

Part of our mission is to approach God with the confidence of Abraham. Many countries around the world are overtaken by corruption and evil. We are to hold up truth to these nations and call them to act with justice. We can also bless them by asking that God would bring his mercy upon them.

### **Prayer Focus for Today:**

- Ask God to lay a nation on your heart.
- Pray for that country that God would heal its injustice and corruption and bring his mercy.

## **Tuesday Devotion: Be Holy**

***Read: Leviticus 18:3-4; Deuteronomy 4:5-19; 1 Peter 2:9-12; James 5:16; Galatians 6:1-2***

When God called the people of Israel, he was clear that their way of life must not imitate the way of life of the people around them. They were to reflect God's nature in the way they acted.

Peter and Paul also encourage the church to show the character of God in such a way that outsiders will be amazed by the way they behave.

Israel failed at this mission, but we can succeed. This may feel overwhelming as we are so aware of our weaknesses and the ways we do not represent God.

We must resist the need to be perfect, but we must hold up the truth of God and continue to conform ourselves to the character of Christ by the power of His Spirit.

We can help each other by wisely sharing with others what we are going through and asking them to prayerfully support us.

### **Prayer Focus for Today:**

- Pray that St Martins C3 would bring others in because of its distinctiveness and unity as a community.
- Ask God to reveal one area of your life that you can work on this month.

## **Wednesday Devotion: Shine Your Light**

***Read: Isaiah 58:1-12; John 13:34-35***

Israel was to be a source of blessing to the Gentiles, yet they were not. The prophet Isaiah criticized them for going through the motions of a spiritual life but then treating each other and the marginalized poorly.

Notice all the “If ... then” statements in this passage. To be a light is to do more than be holy, it is to show compassion for the people we care about and for those who are suffering. Then God will come to his people in new and fresh ways.

There are some great phrases here to reflect on:

“set the oppressed free”

“not to turn away”

“do away ... with the pointing finger and malicious talk.”

“spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry”

The love we have received from God must be shown to each other and out to the world. We need the wisdom to know how best to care for those who need it. There are times to do that alone, but as we do it together, we can increase our impact

### **Prayer Focus for Today:**

- Pray for God to reveal to you one way you and others can care for those who need it and to love more fully.
- Ask God to give you the opportunity to bless someone.

## **Thursday Devotion: Go**

***Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-6; Luke 10:1-9; Luke 24:47-49; Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:8***

The Gospels and Acts give us accounts of Jesus sending his people on mission. This includes Jesus sending his disciples and complementary accounts of the Great Commission. Here the task is often the focus (being a witness, preaching the gospel, bringing the Kingdom of God) and other times there is an emphasis on the end results (making disciples).

What is clear is that it was Jesus' intent for his people to go and spread his glorious message and speak of the forgiveness of sins that is available through him. This mission has not become dormant; right through the world people are leaving their comfort zone and stepping out to bring others towards God.

It often feels like our culture is anti-God and any talk of Jesus is divisive. However, many people are searching for answers, looking for a purpose in life. We need to look for ways to support and encourage others as they reach out to others in their life.

### **Prayer Focus for Today:**

- Ask God who he has placed in your life to share with.
- Pray for others who are reaching out in our church
- Pray for St Martins C3 to be more effective in evangelism.

## **Friday Devotion: Be Reconciled to God**

***Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11-20***

Paul says that he is compelled by the love of Christ to live for him and to try and persuade others to live this way too. He is enthusiastic about the transformation that happens from anyone who is “in Christ”.

It is easy to compare ourselves with others and see the ways we may feel we don't match up. However, the only person we should compare ourselves to is ourselves. Often when we look back at our lives, we can see how we have changed.

As we reflect on how God has changed us, we can see why it is so exciting to bring others into this relationship with God. We can then go represent God in the world and appeal to others to be reconciled to God.

What better way to bless the world than to bring them into a right relationship with God?

### **Prayer Focus for Today:**

- Reflect on the ways God has changed and transformed you. Spend time thanking God for this.
- Pray that our church would see more people coming to a new and renewed relationship with God than ever before.