

# **St Martins C3 – October 31, 2021**

## ***Momentum for Mission – Focus on Mission***

### **Sermon Notes:**

**Read John 3:16**

God loves everyone and wants them to experience their life. Our job is to experience His love for ourselves and then let that overflow to those around us. We want to see God's kingdom come in new and powerful ways in our world and our community.

### **Together**

How do we do mission? The key way we do it as a team! Learn from each other and equip one another for ministry.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:27**

One of the implications of us being the body of Christ is that it is the united life of the church that brings the presence of God into the world. When a body is present, the person is present; when the church is present in the world, God is present.

It is not about superstar individuals doing extraordinary things; it is about every person being who God has called them to be. We must find ways to join together to do this work of mission.

Mission is not a side thing; it's central. William Temple said, *"The Church is the only organisation that does not exist for itself, but for those who live outside of it."*

**St Martins**

St Martins is a beautiful part of Christchurch with great people. St Martins is generally well off – it measures 4 out of 10 on the deprivation scale. People from St Martins are more likely to be professionals, have University degrees and own a home than the rest of Christchurch. They are more likely to be in a relationship, have stable families and be older.

We need to find ways to reach people in our area that connect to their world and bring the truth and reality of the gospel into every part of their life.

### **Individually**

We each have a sphere of influence, a group of people we are in regular connection with, and we have an opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them.

The good news about sharing the good news is that it doesn't have to be complicated. Consider this simple method outlined by Max Lucado. He suggests we use John 3:16

- God loves – God loves everyone. He made them and wants to have a relationship with them.
- He gave – To do this, He sent his Son Jesus into the world to deal with our sin and rebellion by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.
- We believe – We need to trust in God and say He's in charge.
- We live – The result is that we experience the life that we all need and a relationship with God.

Let's take this message of love and share it with the whole world.

## Questions for Connect Groups:

*What has been your takeaway from our Focus on Mission Month?*

*If the church united brings the presence of God to the world, how can we build more unity in our church?*

*What is your understanding of the St Martins community?  
What are its greatest strengths and weaknesses?*

*What could St Martins C3 church do more to reach people?*

*How has God gifted you to get involved?*

*Do you have an idea or something you would like to be involved in reaching St Martins (even if it needs other people to make it work)?*

*Have you ever been asked about your faith by a non-believer?  
How did you respond? What effective ways have you found to share the gospel message?*

*Give an update on the people in your life that you are reaching out to individually? What is the next step in their faith journey?*

*How can we support each other so we are doing this together and not divided?*

## **Monday Devotion: Go**

***Read: Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-6; Luke 10:1-9; Luke 24:47-49.***

As we finish our “Focus on Mission” series, we will take some time to look again at some of the significant passages of Scripture that tell us what we are to do and how.

The Gospels and Acts give us accounts of Jesus sending his people on mission. 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 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; people are leaving their comfort zone and stepping out to bring others to God worldwide.

It often feels like our culture is anti-God, and any talk of Jesus is divisive. However, many people are looking for a purpose in life. We need to prayerfully take opportunities, not trying to force our beliefs down people’s throats like a salesman, rather like a travel guide, see where they are and lead them on a journey to God.

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

- Ask God who he has placed in your life to share with.
- Ask for opportunities and wisdom to share.
- Pray for St. Martins C3 to be more effective in evangelism.

## **Tuesday Devotion: Co-mission**

***Read: Acts 1:6-11***

This passage is not just a commission – it's a revelation that reaching out to others is a co-mission; it is something we do with God. Jesus told others that they were to reach out with His authority and through His power. This mission is guided and empowered by the very same Spirit that directed and supported Jesus' ministry.

God is moving inside of us with His peace and His presence to make disciples. He is also moving in the world around us to enable people to be receptive to this message.

We are told that even at this moment, some disciples doubted (Matthew 28:17), but if you read on in Acts, you see some of the boldest Christian witnesses in history. What changed? They received the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

It was only as the disciples stepped out and began to use the power of God that they began to see what this power is all about. It's only then that they see they have been given the authority.

Here's the encouragement to us. We need to see God do something extraordinary through our ordinary. As you step out, God will move in you and others.

**Pray:**

- For the empowering of God's Spirit to witness to what He has done in you and the world.

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

***Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21***

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”. 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, appealing for them to be reconciled to God.

To reconcile with someone is to take a lost and broken relationship and make it right again. Here, Paul says that the result of being brought close to God is that you want to bring others to God.

We struggle with this idea in our culture. Who am I to tell you what is best for you? But we are not doing this because we think we are morally superior to others. We’re also not doing it because of guilt or to earn a reward. No. Instead, we are sharing with someone what has been so good for us.

It is our responsibility to make sure this message we share is compelling. This means looking for the appropriate opportunities and stepping out with boldness as those who represent Christ.

### **Pray:**

- That God would give us a compelling message to share with others and the boldness to share it.

## **Thursday Devotion: Despite Opposition**

**Read Acts 13:44-52**

Paul and Barnabas were great missionaries for God. They travelled through the ancient world witnessing to what God had done through Jesus. They had success and saw many Jewish people come to faith in Jesus.

However, other Jews stirred up the crowd against them, and they had to change their approach. Instead of preaching primarily to the Jews, they focused on the Gentiles, who were grateful to be accepted into the family of faith.

There will be times when people around you are opposed to the gospel. Don't become discouraged and give up even if it seems as though no one in our world is interested in the message of Jesus. The truth is that God is moving in our world, and there are people we interact with every day who are open to this message of reconciliation.

If someone is not receptive to the message of Jesus, that is okay; pray for them and don't try and force anything on them. However, this could be a sign that it is worth changing your approach or finding someone willing to speak of God and the great things he has done.

### **Pray:**

- Ask God to lead you to those who are open to the message he brings.

## **Friday Devotion: For His Glory**

**Read Romans 11:33-36**

This Sunday, we begin a new series looking at Romans 12-14. In this series, we will explore what it looks like to live a life that the mercy of Jesus has transformed. As we finish up this series on mission, we desire that everything we do is based on the mercy He has for us.

God created everything we see; it all exists by His power and is intended for His glory. This means that every person we meet is someone that carries the image of God inside of them (the *imago dei*).

It also means every person has their life animated by God. It is not just the blood flowing in their body that keeps them alive; it is His sustaining life.

Finally, it means that every person is intended to live for His glory. This can only happen as they come into a reconciled relationship with Him.

We desire that *Focus on Mission* is not just a sermon or a one-off series but is an ongoing desire of all our church to bring the mercy of God to the world around them. God bless you as you share His love with others.

Pray:

- For God to help you bring His life to others for His glory.