

Three Characteristics of a Missional Church

Rev. Dr. David Kim shared briefly about his background. He grew up in South Korea, and was a missionary in Quito, Ecuador for 12 years. He learned Spanish as a second language. Then he spent many years in Houston, TX, and has now lived in America more than in Ecuador. He is still learning English as a third language. He is also an LCMS pastor.

His message was on the Three Characteristics of a Missional Church. By the word "missional" he means a Great Commission-driven church. As we go out, and live out every day, we are to make disciples. His desire is that Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church would become a Great Commission-driven church. We are saved to carry out God's great commission.

MOTIVATION: Compassion for lost people.

Whenever Jesus did some ministry, he didn't do it for the sake of doing it. He did it with compassion for the people. It was not for his own satisfaction, but for the people. Sometimes our motivation is more selfish. Mark 2 shares the story of Christ's compassion for lost people.

Vs 1: And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home.

What did it mean that he "returned to Capernaum." He had already been there. Often, we think that Jesus did all of his ministry in Jerusalem, but this is not true. He did most of his ministry in Galilee. Capernaum was a city in Galilee, the north part of the area. Jesus had just healed Peter's mother-in-law. Peter was married. Jesus healed her when she had a fever.

After that many, many people brought others to Jesus. Jesus healed them and cast out demons. In Ecuador, many times we had to cast out demons of people coming to faith. Many are healed even today. Jesus became famous, and many people came to hear Jesus and be healed.

Vs. 2: And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them.

Most likely the place was Simon Peter's house. Many gathered together. So many people that there was no more room. He was preaching the word to them. It was packed. Unlike here where we have two empty rows up front, there were people outside of the main entrance, and no way for people to come in, it was too crowded.

Everyone was so focused on Jesus preaching. Then they heard noise of people approaching. The roof was opened, and debris was falling down on people. This was a crazy situation! If this was Simon Peter's house, with his temperament, would he have been ok with someone opening his roof? In this chaos situation, with dust and debris, suddenly a man was lowered down to Jesus. What's going on?

Vs 3-5: And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My Son, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus saw their faith. Can we see someone's faith? We often think faith is something we cannot see, but Jesus saw their faith. Then Jesus said, "Son your sins are forgiven."

Are you serious? What's going on? Some of the scribes, masters of the scriptures, were questioning in their hearts. The same will happen to us when we speak the gospel to lost people for the sake of the kingdom, there will be people who will complain and question our actions.

In the first century Jewish world, they understood that the only person who can forgive sins is God. They didn't see Jesus as God. They only saw him as a great teacher or miracle worker, but not God. How can Jesus say that this man's sins are forgiven! Only God can do this!

Jesus was saying this intentionally so that people would understand what kind of Messiah has come among them. He is God! He took flesh and blood so that he can die on the cross, so that all sinners, all who are paralyzed by sin and cannot come into the presence of God, would be saved.

Jesus came to say to each person, "Son/daughter, your sins are forgiven. Not because you are good person or you have done what was right, but because you believe in me. Ultimately, I will die for you so that your sins will be forgiven, not just for a moment, but for eternity."

Maybe we don't take this word seriously. He used the Greek word *teknon*, which means "dearly beloved son." Only the father of his son would say this word to a person. The paralyzed person was used to being marginalized because people thought that he or his family had committed a terrible sin, and that God was punishing him—that's why he was paralyzed. But on that day, when Jesus was at that house, something happened. Jesus called him his Son, and this man's sins were forgiven. And people criticized this. We too have been forgiven of our sins, and we now we proclaim what Jesus came to bring us.

MESSAGE: Jesus came to give forgiveness of sins so that lost people would not perish but have life forever.

We proclaim the same message: Forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. No matter what background, social, economic, or history, Jesus came to give forgiveness.

If you struggle with your faith. If you struggle with knowing that you are saved. If you came here this morning thinking you are not holy enough, or that you wonder whether you are saved. Take courage, it does not depend on your holiness. Jesus has come to forgive you for free! For free!

If your smart phone breaks, and someone gives you a phone for free. What would you do? Would you take it? It is expensive, but someone is offering it for free. Would you offer them your credentials? Jesus doesn't ask for such things. He forgives sins for free now and forever.

METHOD: Jesus sends us to lost people with the good news!

We have a mission. Do you believe in eternity? Do you believe in existence of hell or heaven? Whether you believe it or not, it is truth. So we are here to tell people who don't know about Jesus that they may be saved. This message is not just for us. We are not to be selfish, but we are to share this news with others. We will be criticized for doing this.

But we are to make an eternal difference to lost people by going into our workplaces, neighborhoods, and families. Do you know any lost friends who do not know Jesus? Then share God's love to them so that they would know and have eternal life. We know where to get forgiveness sins. I was blind, but now I can see. I was sad, but now I am happy. We are to share this message over and over again. Jesus has saved us, and now he sends us out.

May we be like those four men who bring paralyzed people in sin to Jesus for forgiveness. Let's bring one more person next Sunday. Jesus cares for all the lost. May his peace and grace and love abound in your life, now and forever. Amen