

Mission as Jesus designed it.

One of the things that Jesus left behind for us to get a grip on what He requires of us is this statement. Follow me.

Look at how many times He repeats it.

PP2 Matt 4:19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

MT 8:22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

MT 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

Matt 10: ³⁸ and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

MT 19:21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Following Jesus is what He requires. This has a lot to do with mission. Hang on mission is being sent, what does following have to do with it? Easy.

PP3 Follow Jesus in the way He did mission.

Today I want to briefly touch on some things I want you to spend the week thinking about.

PP4 Following Jesus in His form of mission is very wholistic.

PP5 It affects the whole person.

It affects every bit of your being.

PP6 It requires

1. PP 7 Communicating the good news of Jesus and His kingdom.
(Evangelism)

PP 7 Acts 28:30 For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹ Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

It requires:

2. PP8 Insisting on the full participation of all people in God's gifts of life and well being.
(Justice)

MT 12:18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim **justice** to the nations.

It requires:

3. PP9 Providing the resources to meet people's needs.(**Compassion**)

PP 10 Matt 9: ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

PP11 The church is to be involved in every possible action that restores, even partially, the wholeness to human life.

PP12 Social healing, physical healing, mental healing, spiritual healing.
Doing the best for that person or persons.

That is why contemporary mission organizations are as involved with health care as much as evangelism, as involved with wealth developing projects as much as evangelism, involved in illness prevention as much as evangelism. Mission is a whole person activity. But we can not leave any aspect out, including dealing with the spiritual aspects.

PP13 1CO 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

Love and mission are closely connected. And notice in this passage that mission done in love, or in the boundaries of these verses deals with all of life.

Often people's stress in life is caused by a lack of love. God's people will in a missional attitude open themselves to providing a love to counter act that.

Love deals with prejudice and bigotry and allows people to find a place of acceptance. Hey, that is what this time and space and place should be about.

Listen to this passage:

PP 14 1 John 3: ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

PP15 We need to create a welfare missional church. Not a hand out church but a church that gives priority to the weak, defenceless and broken who need to be given time, space and resources to find independence of needs, intra dependence of church and dependence on God.

It is about allowing people to find shalom.

Shalom is translated peace but as I said in the morning a few weeks ago it means a great deal more. One author puts it this way “Shalom is a fullness of welfare and health.” Jesus had a shalom concept.

PP16 LK 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Peace isn’t an absence of conflict but a wellness. A time space like this, what we call a church service is not an absence of conflict but a place / time of facilitating wellness and health. Now, doesn’t that give us a different slant on what we do here on Sundays now or when we get back together.

PP17 All these things connect. Compassion, shalom, love, evangelism, justice, mercy, all are part of mission.

And if they are part of mission, we are involved in them as Christians.

Now, I want you to think through these things this week. I want you to dwell on them, reflect on them, meditate on them. Where is my involvement? What am I doing about justice for people? What I am doing about people’s total health? What I am doing about people’s spiritual wellness?

As you reflect on all that, say this verse over and over to yourself.

Pp18 2 Corinthians 8⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Practically find way to share that verse.