

ON MISSION – week 3, and really, we are talking about watering holes.

First, some questions:

1. **If you've been living on a cruise ship, have you turned it around to become a rescue boat yet? What's left to do?**
2. **What did you decide looked bad on you? How have you made steps to get rid of it?**
3. **What did you decide you wanted to put on? How have you made steps towards that?**
4. **Have you found ways for people to connect your "attractiveness" to Christ? How can you continue to do that?**
5. **Have you written your story of before, then Jesus, then after? Have you shared it with the group?**

Today we are going to continue with our TIPS of living on mission. I would love to point us to some scripture today to show us the importance of what we will come to today.

Paul is writing to the Romans about people he holds so close in his heart. It's his family, and he says:

BROTHERS, MY HEART'S DESIRE AND PRAYER TO GOD FOR THEM IS THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED.

Romans 10:1

He writes again to Timothy:

FIRST OF ALL, THEN – wait, why then?

In chapter 1, he says Timothy, hold strong to the faith, don't get shipwrecked, teach the word well, and –

I URGE YOU, FIRST OF ALL TO PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE. ASK GOD TO HELP THEM; INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF, AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM...THIS IS GOOD AND PLEASES GOD OUR SAVIOUR, WHO WANTS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED, AND TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH.

So Paul has said "I pray to God for them to be saved". He says to his apprentice "You pray for them, because God wants them to be saved".

And then this from our Lord and Saviour Himself:

THEN HE (Jesus) SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW; THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST".

Why didn't Jesus just say the harvest is plentiful, so get out amongst it! Get to work! Come up with strategies! Work out a scheme! Tell more people, work harder.

This speaks to us of the inherent power of prayer. Who among us would say "you know what I think? I'm probably just praying a bit too much!" none I don't think.

Listen to this verse:

AND THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE HAVE TOWARD HIM. THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US IN WHATEVER WE ASK, WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE REQUESTS THAT WE HAVE ASKED OF HIM. 1 John 5:14-15

Ok, well, with that in mind, that if its according to His will, He'll hear, and if we ask, He'll grant – we just read in Timothy that He WANTS everyone to be saved. The passage that Pastor Daz read out in

the first week: THE LORD IS NOT SLOW TO FULFILL HIS PROMISE AS SOME COUNT SLOWNESS, BUT IS PATIENT TOWARD YOU, NOT WISHING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD REACH REPENTANCE. 2 Peter 3:9

This suggests to me that as it relates to being on mission – THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO – is to pray.

Why would this be so important? Well, firstly, consider the work God can do that we just can't.

AND I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART, AND A NEW SPIRIT I WILL PUT WITHIN YOU. AND I WILL REMOVE THE HEART OF STONE FROM YOUR FLESH AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH. Ezekiel 36:26

Not only that:

JESUS SAID NO ONE CAN COME TO ME UNLESS THE FATHER WHO SENT ME DRAWS HIM. John 6:44

Bearing all that in mind, I wonder if you can commit to praying in 3 ways:

1. Make a list of 5 people, that you will pray for everyday for a YEAR. I know how hard that would be – but perhaps you put it in your alerts in your phone, on the fridge, on the back of your toilet door. Do it.
2. Pray for workers into the harvest. Why would we pray that rather than just doing it? Because Jesus asks us to.
3. Pray this prayer everyday: God, please show me who needs the gospel today. And you might add Paul's prayer in that one: *God, please show me who needs the gospel today.* And you might add Paul's prayer in that one: *Pray also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel...that I might declare it boldly.*

And let's not forget: one plants, one waters, but it's God who makes it grow – so let's start with Him.

Questions:

1. **Have you felt that prayer was useful when it relates to mission? Why, why not?**
2. **Can you think of 5 people that you can pray for for a year?**
3. **Share with the group people that you know prayed for you before you became a Christian.**