

## Knowing and Following Christ – Jesus' Mission and Purpose

### What Are the Questions?:

Luke 15:1-10, Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 9:35-38, and Matthew 28:16-20

#### LAUNCH

John 2:6 says "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus walked." In order to do this, we need some insight into Jesus' mission and purpose. To help us understand that, we're going to learn about Christ's heart for lost people.

#### EXPLORE

Read Luke 15:1-10

- 1) What do we learn about Jesus' priorities from this passage?
- 2) What do we learn from verses 7 and 10?
- 3) Why do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law thought differently about 'sinners' than Jesus?
- 4) With regards to lost people, what things in our lives could cause us to be more like the Pharisees than like Jesus?

Read Luke 19: 1-10

- 5) According to this passage, what sort of a person was Zacchaeus and how was he perceived by others?
- 6) What things does Jesus do in this passage to reach out to Zacchaeus?
- 7) Jesus' efforts to reach out to Zacchaeus brought out what reactions in others?
- 8) What does verse 10 say about Jesus' purpose?

Read Matthew 9:35-38

- 9) What did Jesus see in the crowds?
- 10) How did he feel about the crowds and what was his solution for them?
- 11) What might Jesus' thoughts be about the people of today's world?
- 12) Do we feel the same things as Jesus when we see the people around us?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

- 13) What was Jesus asking his disciples to do?
- 14) With how much authority did Christ send them out?
- 15) Why would these instructions be applicable to us?
- 16) How do you feel about God entrusting to us the task of reaching this lost world?

#### APPLY

If we are truly going to walk as Jesus walked, we need to embrace the mission that Jesus had as our own. It's clear from scripture that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. The question now, is how do our lives align with this mission? Talk to the person next to you and answer the following:

- In light of this study, how does your life fit in with Christ's mission to reach the lost?
- What things could you start doing to be more effective in reaching lost people?
- In Matthew 9:38, Jesus says to "Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out labourers into his harvest field." Pray together now for God to do just that.

**For the Leader:**

- The aim of this study is to demonstrate through scripture Christ's mission to reach lost people and to show that his mission is our mission, therefore engaging our hearts and actions with that.

**What are the Answers?:**

- Reaching lost people is of the highest priority for Jesus.
- Nothing gets the citizens of heaven more excited than lost people coming to Christ!
- Two things. Firstly, they were so into religious practices that they missed what God really cared about. Secondly, they cared too much about what people thought of them, so they did things only to impress others.
- Only associating with Christians. Engaging so much in religious activities that we have no time to be with the lost. Not sharing with others because we fear what they'll think of us.
- A wealthy tax collector. Short. Persistent. A sinner. He was not popular with people.
- He notices him. He makes time for him. He seemingly interrupts his plans for him.
- They were grumbling and displeased by what Jesus does.
- Jesus came to seek and to save what was lost.
- They were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. They were lost!
- He had compassion for them. He knew more labourers were needed to reach them and so he asked his disciples to pray for that.
- He would probably think in much the same way. They are lost! His solution for them would be the same - that we need to pray for God to raise up labourers to reach out to them.
- Let the group discuss.
- Jesus is asking them to be those labourers he talked about in Matt 9. He's asking them to reach out to the lost of all nations and make them disciples of Jesus Christ.
- With all of the authority given to him - all authority in heaven and on earth!
- Because Jesus asked them to teach the people they reach, everything Jesus had taught them - including this very command to go and make disciples of all nations.
- Let the group discuss.

**What's the Big Idea?**

Jesus has a heart to reach lost people. His words and actions show this consistently. There's more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over 99 righteous people who don't need to repent. Jesus calls us to join him in reaching lost people in the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

**What's the Problem?**

Many Christians do not share their faith. Possible reasons could be fear, laziness, or simply not realizing that we all should be. But sharing our faith is central to being a Christ follower. To love Christ is to love what he loves - the lost!

**What's Our Response?**

As we see Christ's love for the lost in Scripture and his clear mandate to reach out to them, we should align our lives to his purpose. If Christ's purpose was to reach lost people, then so our purpose should be too. He invites us to participate with him in what we now call the Great Commission. We all should ask ourselves "How can our lives best fit in with the Great Commission?" Then as we answer that question for ourselves, we should go and put that into practice.