

CLI Leadership Bible Study: Lesson 8B: Part Two

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ

Lesson 8B: Active Leadership Mission (Week One) The Holy Spirit

In Lesson 8A: Part One, you asked Jesus for opportunities to serve Him each day by helping others. You were on *mission*. Jesus assigned you a specific task to carry out for God's glory. You were also asked to practice taking "every thought captive" to Christ. You learned how to discipline your mind each day in order to store up good things in your heart.

Definition: The word *mission* not only means an assigned task but a calling as well. A calling is an objective or task that a person believes he or she must carry out with special care and devotion. *Missions* are specific activities undertaken to bring the gospel to places where people have not had the opportunity to hear or read it. It is an organized effort to reach the lost and make disciples. Typically *missions* involve saints being sent to a foreign country in order to share the story of salvation.

Both mission and missions are from God. He assigns tasks, gives the call and sends people to a lost and hurting world. There is a Latin term, *Missio Dei* (pronounced miss-ee-oh day), that has come to describe God's work and purpose in the world. *Missio Dei* is translated into English, God's Mission. The Latin word *missio* is also translated "a sending or sending away."

Sending is an important concept in missions or mission. We do not dream or plot out ways to help God, but specifically request our assignments. God will communicate in some way what He wants us to do. He also enables us to go and accomplish His purposes.

God's overarching mission in the world is redemption¹ through His Son. Therefore we should embrace and give utmost attention to sharing the gospel and making disciples. Our involvement in God's Mission (*Missio Dei*) flows from the life and activity of our triune God:

The Father sends the Son (John 3:16)

The Father and the Son send the Spirit (John 14:16-17, 16:7)

Father, Son and Spirit send you, me and all believers (Matthew 28:19. Ephesians 4:4-6)²

It does not matter where you live or what responsibilities you have or do not have, God can and will use you. He may have a foreign field in mind or He may want you exactly where you are.

¹ God's action of purchasing mankind from sin's penalty, bondage and power through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

² Timm, Terry, *Worship.Mission.Transformation*, 2010 Website:[HTTP://WWW.TERRYTIMM.COM/ABOUT/MISSION/](http://www.terrytimm.com/about/mission/)

Remember God is the Potter and you are the clay. The clay does not tell the Maker what shape or purpose it desires.

The Father sending the Son glorified God. Jesus, becoming flesh and walking on earth, revealed God's true identity (John 1:14, 18; 17:4-6). This honored God. The Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit to glorify Jesus, to make Him known. The Spirit enables us to glorify God. All sending, all mission(s) involve making God's true character known through His Son Jesus Christ.

Read Acts 1:4-5:

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5

The Holy Spirit's presence and direction in the life of a Christian leader is critical. It was so important that Jesus commanded His disciples to wait until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. As followers of Christ, we also need to be immersed and totally engaged with the Spirit of God. Invite the Spirit to fill and lead every part of your life.

The Spirit keeps us focused on God and his agenda. Notice our focus is first and foremost on God. We desire to glorify and honor God so we seek out His plan for ourselves and others. We want to be on mission with God because we love Him. If we get this backwards and look for the mission first, we will become "works oriented" instead of "Christ oriented."

Without the Spirit of truth moving in our lives, we will not be a positive influence on the attitudes and actions of others for Christ. We need the Spirit's direction, counsel, love and power. He brings us into daily communication with God and enables us to carry out His mission.

Read and meditate on John 16:13-15:

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. John 16:13-15

Jesus was teaching His disciples about the Holy Spirit in John 16. This was an extremely important lesson because in a short time Jesus would be leaving them in physical form. He would suffer death and although He would rise again, His body would return to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.

The disciples would not be left to face their future alone. Jesus' Spirit would be with them. He would continue to teach, guide and comfort just as Jesus had done. He would continue to reveal God to the individual and to the community. In the same way, you are not left to face your future alone. The Holy Spirit is with you to teach, guide and comfort in every situation and need.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Jesus is truth. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus and guides us into all knowledge of our Savior. He does not speak alone, but speaks as one with the Father and the Son. They are in total agreement about all things. They hold no unique thoughts or interests: they are exactly the same.

The Spirit tells or reveals knowledge to us as we need it. He does not give us more than we can handle. Each day He will illuminate God's word and show us how we might honor God and exalt the name of Jesus. Exalting Jesus exalts God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. You are not slighting God the Father by lifting up the name of Jesus. Praising Jesus is the same as praising God the Father.

We glorify Jesus by seeing and worshipping Him for who He is and what He has done. He was born (incarnation) of the Virgin Mary in a manger in Bethlehem. He lived a life without sin, serving God and people. He was crucified for our sins. Yes, the cross will always be prominent in glorifying the Son, the Father, and the Spirit. Remember this was God's plan for Jesus to die and to be resurrected.

After Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to about 500 people, He ascended into heaven. He will return in unparalleled splendor as King of kings and Lord of lords to usher in a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). These truths about Jesus are the basics of our faith and the most important way of glorifying Him. Writing this reminds me of the lyrics by Michael Smith:

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you

Definition: "Open the eyes of my heart" is another way of saying "let me see beyond the physical realm into the spiritual" or "give me deeper spiritual understanding." Pray that your understanding is enlightened, that God opens the eyes of your heart to see Jesus. Reference: Ephesians 1:18-23.

Not only do we glorify Jesus by meditating on the facts of His life and Being, we also glorify Him by sharing these truths with others. The Spirit of truth will speak through us to others of the Person of Jesus Christ. As He speaks through us, He is also responsible for opening the hearts to whom we are speaking. Thank You, O God, for Your Holy Spirit!

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Lesson 8B: Part One
CLI Christian Leadership Study: Active Leadership Mission

Name & Number: _____ Date: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mission Assignment: Your mission this week is to meditate (think deeply, reflect) on the basic truths of Jesus' person, birth, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension and return. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your meditation in order to see Jesus in real and meaningful ways. Keep a journal log below and share what the Spirit revealed to you:

1. Day 1: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' person: John 1:1, 14, 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-7; Hebrews 1:3. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

2. Day 2: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' birth: Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Matthew 1:16, 21; Luke 1:35; John 1:9, 14. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

3. Day 3: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' ministry: Matthew 4:17-25, 8:2-4; Luke 3:23, 4:16-30, 31-44. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

4. Day 4: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' death: John 19:1-37; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 3:16. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

5. Day 5: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' resurrection: Matthew 28:5-7; John 11:25, 20:10-20; Acts 4:10-11. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

6. Day 6: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' ascension: Mark 16:19-20, Acts 1:6-12; 1 Timothy 3:16. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

7. Day 7: Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' return or second coming: Matthew 16:27, 23:39, 24:30, 36-39; Mark 8:36-38; John 14:1-4, Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7, 3:11, 22:20-21. Share what the Spirit revealed or how He led you:

8. Review your week and your above journal log. Do you see a particular pattern or theme in your life or how the Spirit led you as you meditated on the person of Jesus Christ?

Lesson 8 (Part Two): Active Leadership Mission (Week Two) God's Love for You

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Sometime during your assignment last week you might have recognized the great love God has for you in sending His Son. God's word is a record of Jesus. It is an eternal account of His love and faithfulness from Genesis to Revelation. God wants you to rely on His love and to never doubt it. In fact, doubting God's love for you is tantamount (equal) to saying that God is not truthful. As a leader, you must rely and depend on God's love for you and those you serve.

Mission Assignment: Each day read and meditate on the verses below. Where appropriate, place your name in the verse and think of God talking with you and about you. **Write your thoughts about God's love for you and how He reveals His love to you each day:**

Psalm 17:7-9, 42:8

9. Day 1: _____

Romans 5:5-8, 8:28-39

10. Day 2: _____

Psalms 63:3, 107:28-31

11. Day 3: _____

John 14:1-4; Ephesians 2:4-7

12. Day 4: _____

Psalms 136:1-9; Song of Solomon 2:4

13. Day 5: _____

Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 119:76; Ephesians 3:16-19

14. Day 6: _____

John 3:16; Revelation 3:19-20, 21:4, 22:5

15. Day 7: _____

Lesson 8 (Part Two): Active Leadership Mission (Week Three) Loving God

When we realize how much God loves us and how much He has done for us, we love Him in return. In other words, we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). Even if we have difficulty loving God or our neighbor because of past abuse or shame, we have no excuse because God has poured out His love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit enables us to love just as He enables us to follow Christ.

Leadership is about loving people. We want to lead because we love God. Since we love God, we love the people that He has created in His image: rich or poor, healthy or handicapped, your race or another race, high intelligence or low intelligence, young or old, pleasing personality or rotten personality and well, you get the idea. We want all people to experience God's love and purpose for their lives.

Mission Assignment: Read each day's Bible verses for inspiration. Pray each day and ask God to help you love others and to give you supernatural favor with them to accomplish a complete love walk! Invite the Holy Spirit to love people through you with your thoughts, words, actions and deeds.

Record one incident each day over the next week of how you were led to love an individual or to love in general and what happened:

Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39-40; Luke 7:44-47

16. Day 1: _____

Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Matthew 5:43, 22:37-38; 1 Thessalonians 3:12

17. Day 2: _____

2 Samuel 9:3-10; Luke 10:39-42

18. Day 3: _____

Deuteronomy 11:1; 1 Kings 8:61; 1 Corinthians 12:13-13:8

19. Day 4: _____

John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 Peter 1:22, 2:17, 4:8

20. Day 5: _____

Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; John 3:11-20, 4:19-21, 15:12; Revelation 2:1-5

21. Day 6: _____

Genesis 13:5-9; Esther 4:15-16; Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:13-14

22. Day 7: _____

23. Review your week and your above journal log. Share one thing that you learned (joy or difficulty) in your week of loving others: _____

Next: Lesson 9: Prayer of a Leader

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