

Lesson 2: Mission Statement

Opening:

Imagine that you were given tickets for a cruise (all expenses paid). The only thing that you had to do was to pack and show up at the airport. A plane would take you to your port, you would board the ship, and from there you would set sail on your getaway. Several questions might race to your mind, but one piece of information is crucial: where is the boat going? That would help you determine what to pack, what to expect, and what type of activities you might engage in during the trip. The late New York Yankees baseball player Yogi Berra once noted: “if you don’t know where you are going, you might end up somewhere else.”

The purpose of this lesson is to discuss the Mission Statement that the church has adopted: “Love God, serve others, equip disciple-makers.”

Central Truths:

God’s word provides the biblical foundation for our church’s mission statement. A biblical mission statement sets the direction of the ministry. Every church must answer the question: why do we exist as a church?

Biblical Mission Statement:

Think of a mission statement as the direction or destination that we are heading toward as a church. Without a specific direction, we can’t know what to pack for the trip. The Bible is full of God-given mission statements.

Read the following passages and write down what God called each of the mentioned people to do:

- Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28) Biblical Mission _____
- Moses (Exodus 3:10) Biblical Mission _____
- Joshua (Joshua 1:1-5) Biblical Mission _____
- David (2 Samuel 5:2) Biblical Mission _____
- Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:17) Biblical Mission _____
- Jesus states His own mission (Mark 10:45) Biblical Mission _____
- Paul (Romans 15:20) Biblical Mission _____

Every church is designed to have a mission (Paul talks about the mission of the church in Philippians 1:27-28). Paul uses the phrase “striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” in verse 27. That word “strive” is the same word that we get our word “athlete” from. It means to “enter into training” and we are to do this together (side by side). The second part of the phrase “faith of the gospel” tells us what we are training for – that people might come to have faith in Christ. The point Paul makes is that disciple-makers enter biblical training with one another to learn how to become a disciple-maker.

Examine the Text:

Reading the Biblical Text: Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Look at vv. 34-36 Already in this chapter, Jesus has been questioned by the Pharisees and the Sadducees. In our text for today, the Pharisees question Jesus again. Although the Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus into giving the wrong answer, evidence shows that during the time of Jesus many teachers were trying to determine which of the 613 commandments was the greatest commandment.

Look at vv. 37-40 Jesus draws His answer from the Shema (a Jewish prayer found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9). The first commandment is to love God. When we love God, we obey Him. Jesus then adds a second or companion command: to love one’s neighbor. These two commands direct all other activity for a believer. A different word is used for the word “love” from the first commandment to the second commandment. Loving God is done out of reverence for Him, because He is our Creator and Redeemer. Loving our neighbor is not done because of merit or worth but acting toward others (serving others) with their good and well-being in mind.

We love God because He first loved us (1 John 4:19), and we love others through His love for us (Galatians 5:13-16).

First Baptist Enid Mission Statement:

“Love God, serve others, equip disciple-makers.”

Our mission statement begins with a vertical relationship. We are called to know God, to trust in Him as Lord and Savior, and to learn to follow Him in obedience. What are some ways that you can grow in your relationship with God?

Our mission includes a horizontal relationship. We are called to serve others. We serve others by using our gifts to help one another in the church, and to serve the community around us.

What are some ways that you as a small group could serve others in your group this week? What are some ways that you could serve others who are not in your group this week?

Our mission includes a missional focus. We are called to train disciple-makers. In last week’s lesson we noted that disciple of Jesus seeks to disciple others. Who might God be calling you to share Jesus with?

Applying the Text:

Aubrey Malphurs notes that “knowing the mission dictates the ministry’s direction.” Our mission statement helps us to remember that we are to make much of God, serve others well, and train disciple-makers through building personal relationships through which we can share Jesus and show others what it means to love God because of His love for us.

Our plan is to spend the rest of this series working on how we can live out this mission as a church family. For now, we must be passionate about loving God, serving others above all else. Then we will become disciple-makers.

As a class this week, pray that every decision we make would lead us toward the fulfillment of the mission of the church.