



The Local Church
The Mission Of The Church



Last week we learned that the church is a team.

- The idea of team came from the Trinity. We are created in the image of God.
- Whenever God has a great mission for man He called upon man to work as a team.
- When Jesus started his mission, he worked with a team to accomplish the mission.
- Jesus told His disciples that He would use His teachings and them to start a new team called the church to accomplish His mission.

The local church is a team!

What is the mission of our team?

Every team exists to fulfill a mission. This week we want to learn what is the mission of our team, the local church, and we will begin to learn what we must do to join our team on that mission.

Jesus said the mission of our team, the local church, is to *Make Disciples*. (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:18-20)

Matthew 4:19

19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

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Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

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When we join the church of Jesus Christ we are joining a team whose mission is to make disciples?



What is a disciple?(Matthew 4:19)

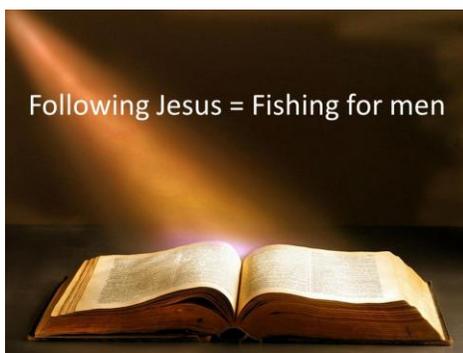
Matthew 4:19

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Based on Matthew 4:19 a disciple of Jesus is someone...

- Who is following Jesus
- Who is being changed into the image of Jesus
- Who is on mission for Jesus



Making disciples! This is our mission as a team!



The team will have more and more success when every member of the team decides to accept the mission of the team; to make disciples.

Have you ever made that decision? Have you ever said to Jesus, I accept your mission to make disciples?

This decision can be made when you receive Jesus as your personal savior. Jesus revealed the mission to His team before they understood their need for Him to save them from their sins. Jesus revealed the mission to Paul immediately after he revealed who He was to Paul. This is what happened to me. I received Jesus as my savior and that same night, He revealed the mission to me. I accepted Jesus and then I accepted the mission.

Many believers receive Jesus as their savior and they do not immediately learn about the mission. As a result, there are thousands upon thousands of baptized believers in the church who have never accepted the mission and they are not on mission for Christ.

There are also thousands upon thousands of believers in the church who know about the mission who have never accepted the mission.

As a result, there are vast numbers of church members who have joined the team but they are not helping the team fulfill its mission. The team's mission is not yet their mission.

The church would be so much stronger if every member joined the mission of the team.

Now that you know the mission of the team, what are you going to do about it? Salvation is free. Salvation is a gift that you Jesus paid for. There is nothing you can do to pay for it.

But the mission of the church is not free. Jesus will do everything He promises to do if you accept His mission, but the mission is not free. Jesus made it clear that to accept the mission we must be willing to lay down our life.

[Matthew 16:24](#)

[24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.](#)

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Salvation is free, but discipleship will
cost you your life

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* —

The story of Peter in John 21:15-22

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21

Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."
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What does it mean to lay down your life for this mission?

Laying down your life does not just mean your physical life but it means that you evaluate every major decision you make based on your mission.

- Your mission determines how you live morally.
- Your mission determines if you marry, and if you marry, who you marry.
- Your mission determines what you do for a living.
- Your mission determines where you live.
- Your mission determines if you have children and if you have children, how you raise your children.
- Your mission determines who you relate to and how you relate to them.
- Your mission determines where you go to church and your mission determines how you serve in your church.
- Your mission determines how you spend your money and what you do with your free time.

There is not any other person or organization that asks you to make such a radical commitment to their mission. Perhaps the elite special forces, some elite sports team, some political movements, or some religion would have similar requirements. But the mission that Jesus is calling you to fulfill has requires that you surrender everything for the mission.

[Matthew 10:37](#)

[37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.](#)

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[Luke 14:26-27](#)

[26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.](#)

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Have you accepted your mission? Have you agreed with Jesus to lay down your life for the mission that He has for your life?

Most believers in the local church are about as committed to their team's mission as Kevin Durant was to the OKC Thunder.

Most believers in the local church are about as committed to their team's mission as Benedict Arnold was to the United States.

Most believers in the local church are about as committed to their team's mission as Judas Iscariot was to Jesus Christ.

In each one of these situations, these people were not committed to the mission of their team but they were committed to what they believed was best for them.

Are you a believer who is on the mission of Christ or are you a believer whose mission is what is best for you?

Jesus said...

[Matthew 16:25](#)

[25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.](#)

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One of the things that disturbs me the most about our team called the church is when I get involved with a believer on our team who seems to have no power to change major sin issues in their life.

It disturbs me when I hear one of my team members say why won't God deliver me from these desires, these emotions, these thoughts, this attitude, this motive, or these sinful actions?

It disturbs me when I hear one of my team members say why doesn't God use me to the way He uses others?

It disturbs me when I hear one of my team members say why doesn't God give me more friends?

When I hear these complaints, I immediately know why they do not have any power and why God is not answering their prayers.

Jesus made it crystal clear that His power was available to all believers. But He also made it clear that His power is available to all believers who have agreed to lay down their life for His mission.

So many believers are looking to God and praying to God for God to change something in their life so that their life will be better. If you are in Christ, the best answer to that prayer is for God to kill you.

God's will only pour out His power in your life when you surrender your life to His mission for your life.

Matthew 4:19

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Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
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Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
NKJV

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
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Acts 4:5-12

5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
NKJV

Acts 4:29-31

29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.
NKJV

Ephesians 5:15-21

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

NKJV

Luke 11:13

13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

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Jesus gives the power of the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. But He gives that power to those believers who are on mission for Him.

My greatest failures as a believer have been during times that I have taken a break from the mission. I become powerless to overcome temptation when I take a break from the mission.

Every great coach will tell you that every great team they have ever coached was a team of players that had bought in to the team's mission. Great coaches will say their great teams

had a great team chemistry because all the players had bought in to the team's mission. Great coaches will say that creating this chemistry is the greatest challenge they face as a coach.

There are always those individuals on their teams that have their own personal agenda and mission rather than the mission of the team. A coach will make every effort to break these individuals and motivate him to buy into the team's mission. He knows this is critical to his team's success.

Are you one of those individuals on our team that has your own personal agenda and mission?

Will you lay aside your personal agenda and personal mission and accept the mission that Jesus has for your life?



You will never be motivated to make such a radical decision until you receive Jesus as your personal savior. Jesus is the greatest coach who ever lived. There has never been a coach who sacrificed so much for His team.

He wants to be your personal coach. Before He can coach you, you must believe that Jesus is Lord and that He died for your sin.



And you must humble yourself and give up your right to be your own coach. You must surrender.

Will you receive Jesus?