

Mission Revisited Part 1: MEETING WITH GOD

The BIG IDEA

Your 'Mission' is a statement of exactly what it is God has CALLED you to DO:
Your PURPOSE, what you are PURSUING, how you JUDGE SUCCESS.

Our Mission Statement is MEET with God, WALK with God & SERVE God.

- * MEETING with God is about ENCOUNTER.
- * WALKING with God is about RELATIONSHIP.
- * SERVING God is about PURPOSE.

→ *Why is it important for a church to revisit its mission periodically?*
→ *Why is your Mission Statement the primary filter through which everything should be evaluated?*
→ *How does our statement of mission reflect our 'core spiritual DNA' as a church?*

It works for us as a church, but is also CRUCIAL for you as an individual: your future fulfilment & fruitfulness DEPEND on it.

→ *Why is that the case? What would probably happen if you neglected to meet with God, walk with God and serve God? What would be the end product, in all likelihood? What are the dangers of going through the motions of religion without meeting God in a personal and intimate way?*

Meet Walk Serve in 3 Contexts

- a) With GOD
- b) With our BROTHERS & SISTERS
- c) With OTHERS, those OUTSIDE OF THE FAITH

→ *What does it look like to meet, walk & serve in each of those 3 contexts?*

Do all that & you won't go FAR WRONG & you'll be living FAITHFUL to the Lord's COMMISSION.

→ *What is the Lord's Commission & how is this collection of actions a faithful outworking of it?*

Meeting with God in 3 Scenarios

1. Meeting with God FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME

- * Everyone needs that TRANSFORMATIVE, REVELATORY moment, when the SCALES fall from our EYES & we have an ENCOUNTER with SAVING GRACE.
 - * A huge part of our mission is to FACILITATE that.
- *How did you meet with God for the first time?*
→ *How do we, as a church, make our services a fertile environment for people to meet with God for the first time? If we, as individuals or as a church, fail to prioritise meeting, walking with and serving God, will our church be that place?*

2. We all need to meet with God, PERSONALLY & INTIMATELY on a REGULAR basis

- *Why do we need that? What do we potentially get from it? How do you personally facilitate that?*
→ *Why do we point our services at ministry response time? How often do you respond? What factors contribute either to your decision to respond or not?*
- a) God longs to DRAW us into encounter → Be READY & EXPECTANT
 - b) Bended KNEE goes hand-in-hand with open HEART
→ Be SURRENDERED & YIELDED
 - c) Encounter always has a PURPOSE & we NEED what He HAS
→ Be RECEPTIVE & RESPONSIVE
- *Would you say you are ready, expectant, surrendered, yielded, receptive and responsive? If we were all of those things, what could God do amongst us? How do we make sure we are each of those things?*
→ *Who initiates encounter, us or God? What part does our 'freewill' play in that? What are some of the things that keep us from encounter?*
→ *How did you feel about worship in a circle? How did it make you feel? What were the pros and cons? Would you like to do it again?*

What might an 'Encounter' look like?

- i) Deep penetrating AWARENESS of His PRESENCE.
 - ii) Sense of being surrounded with His LOVE.
 - iii) Receiving an infusion of enabling GRACE or special FAITH.
 - iv) Hearing a divine WHISPER.
 - v) The assurance of receiving inspired DIRECTION.
 - vi) Being touched with surge of His POWER.
 - vii) The significant lifting of a BURDEN.
 - viii) The HEALING of a HURT
- *Which of those have you experienced in God's presence? Any you need right now? What part do words like 'hunger' & 'expectancy' play in that?*
→ *"Too much church takes place in the pew and not enough at the altar!" Do you agree? What does that really imply? And how do we (you!) facilitate more of that?*

3. There are times we need to meet with God SPECIFICALLY

- * God seems to do his BEST work when people are at their LOWEST EBB (Isa 61:1, Ps 34:18, 9:9, Matt 11:28, 2 Cor 1:3-4).
 - * If you are staring at a MOUNTAIN ... Wallowing in a VALLEY ... Grieving a BROKEN relationship ... Fighting an ADDICTION ... Nursing a deep WOUND ... You need to MEET with God, face-to-face, to do BUSINESS with Him.
- *What are the issues that tend to drive you to God? If you were really struggling, would you go to see the prayer ministry team? If so, why? If not, why not?*