



Unit 3: Christian Leadership

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

Lesson 11

Active Leadership Mission (Part Two)

(Note: there are three mission weeks in Lesson 11)

Week One

The Holy Spirit

In Lesson 10, Part One of *Active Leadership Mission*, we asked Jesus for opportunities to serve Him each day by helping others. We were on *mission*. Jesus assigned us specific tasks to carry out for God's glory. We were also asked to practice taking "every thought captive" to Christ. We learned how to discipline our minds each day in order to store up good things in our hearts.

Definitions: The word *mission* not only means an assigned task but a calling as well. A calling is an objective or task people believe they 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 learn about the good news of Jesus' coming to deliver us from sin and restore our relationship with God. It is an organized effort to reach the lost and make disciples. Typically, *missions* involve believers going to a foreign country 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).

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

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

It does not matter where we live, or what responsibilities we may or may not have, God can and will use us. He may have a foreign field in mind, or He may want us exactly where we are. God is the Potter and we are the clay. The clay does not tell the Potter what shape or purpose it desires (Jeremiah 18:6).

The Father sent the Son, who glorified God. By becoming flesh and walking on earth, Jesus revealed God's true identity (John 1:14, 18, 17:4–6). The Father and the Son then sent the Holy Spirit during Pentecost (Acts 2 1-17, 36-41) to empower believers for service—all to the glory of God the Father. All sending, all mission and missions involve making God's true character and identity known through His Son Jesus—to God's glory.

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. ⁵For 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 in every part of your life.

The Spirit keeps us focused on God and His agenda. Notice that 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 the 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. ¹⁴He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.” John 16:13–15

In John 16:13–15, Jesus was teaching His disciples about the Holy Spirit. This was an extremely important lesson because in a short time Jesus, in His physical form, would be leaving them. He

² Terry Timm, *Worship Mission.Transformation*.<<http://www.terrytimmm.com/about/mission/>>(accessed 6/10/2010)

would suffer death and although He would rise again, His glorified body would go to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9; 1 Peter 3:22).

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 them just as Jesus had done. In the same way, we are not left to face our futures alone. The Holy Spirit is with us 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. The Holy Spirit does not speak alone, but speaks as one with the Father and the Son. The three 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. We 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 of a virgin, Mary, in the town of Bethlehem and placed in a manger. He lived a life without sin, serving God, and was crucified for humanity's sins. Remember, it was God's plan for Jesus to die and to be resurrected. Therefore, the cross will always be prominent in glorifying the Son, the Father, and the Spirit.

After Jesus was raised from the dead and appeared to more than 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:4–6). 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.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. Ephesians 1:18–21

Definitions: Having *the eyes of your heart enlightened* is another way of praying “to see beyond the physical realm into the spiritual” or “to receive deeper spiritual understanding.” To *enlighten* is to be in or into light. Light is metaphor for spiritual insight.

Pray for God to enlighten the eyes of your heart and the hearts of your discipleship team to see Jesus.

What is Meditation?

During the next three weeks your mission is to meditate (think deeply, reflect) on the basic truths of Jesus. Therefore, if you do not regularly meditate on God's Word, it will be helpful to consider what your following mission assignment requires. To begin with, meditation is a private and prayerful practice.

In thinking about God we need to open our Bible, read, and consider carefully what God is saying through it. *Meditation is contemplating God*—His attributes, Person, acts, words, and truths. Everything we know about God is either in His Word (the Scriptures) or has been confirmed for us. For example, when we read Genesis 22:14, *The Lord will Provide*, we recall the times the Lord has provided for us, and recognize Scripture confirming this truth for us.

The best way to understand and hear what God wants to say to us through His Word is to read or listen to the Scriptures over and over—even if the words are familiar and we think, *Oh, I know these verses*. Overcome those feelings and keep pondering the words in the Bible. Just take a verse or a few verses at a time. Treasure them. Think about them. What do they mean for you? What might God be saying to you through the verses?

Be patient and do not rush through meditating on the Bible verse(s). Wait on the Lord. You will be rewarded with new insights and a closer relationship with the Lord. "Meditation by God's people is a reverent act of worship. Through it they commune with God and are thereby renewed spiritually."³ The righteous and faithful people of the Bible meditated on God's Word day and night.

Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. Psalm 119:97

My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.
Psalm 119:148

I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. ⁶I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land. Psalm 143:5–6

May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

As Trent Butler writes in the *Holman Bible Dictionary*, "Meditation is the repetitious going over of a matter in one's mind because it is the chief concern of life. The constant recollection of God's past deeds by the hearing of Scripture and repetition of thought produces confidence in God."⁴

I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. ¹⁰⁰I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. Psalm 119:99–100

³ Trent Butler, "Meditation" *Holman Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991), 939.

⁴ Ibid.

Your Mission

Your mission this week is to meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' person, birth, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, and return. The Bible citations are listed for each day for you to read from your Bible.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you each day in order to see Jesus in real and meaningful ways while also enabling you to complete any task or assignment. Keep a journal log below describing what the Spirit reveals to you in the space provided (#1). When you meet with your team, tell them what the Holy Spirit revealed to you.

Day 1

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *person* and glory (John 1:1, 14, 20:28; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5–11; Hebrews 1:3–6).
2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

Day 2

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *birth* (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6–7; Matthew 1:16, 20–25; Luke 1:29–35; John 1:9).
2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

Day 3

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *ministry* (Matthew 4:17–25, 8:2–4; Luke 3:23, 4:16–30, 31–44).
2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

Day 4

1. 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).

2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

Day 5

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *resurrection* (Matthew 28:5–7; John 11:25–27, 20:11–22; Acts 4:10–12).

2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

Day 6

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *ascension* (Mark 16:19–20, Luke 24:51; Acts 1:6–12; 1 Timothy 3:16).

2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

Day 7

1. Meditate on the basic truths of Jesus' *return or second coming* (Matthew 16:27, 23:39, 24:30, 36–39, 42–44; Mark 8:36–38; John 14:1–4; Titus 2:13, 11–12; Revelation 1:7, 3:11, 22:20–21).

2. What did the Spirit reveal to you or how did He lead you?

End of Week Review

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?

—End of Week One—

Week Two

God's Love for You

Hopefully during your mission assignment last week you recognized the great love God has for you in sending His Son to earth. God's Word is a record of Jesus and His mission of love. 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 disciple and leader, you must believe in and rely (depend) on God's love for you and those you serve.

Mission

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you each day to experience and appreciate God's love. Read the citations from your Bible and meditate on them each day. 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. Be prepared to share some thoughts.

Day 1

1. Think about God's love for you (Psalm 17:6–9, 42:8).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

Day 2

1. Think about God's love for you (Romans 5:5–8, 8:28–39).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

Day 3

1. Think about God's love for you (Psalm 63:3, 107:28–31).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

Day 4

1. Think about God's love for you (John 14:1–4; Ephesians 2:4–7).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

Day 5

1. Think about God's love for you (Psalm 136:1–9; Song of Songs 2:4 [Song of Solomon]2:4).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

Day 6

1. Think about God's love for you (Deuteronomy 7:9; Psalm 119:76; Ephesians 3:16–21).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

Day 7

1. Think about God's love for you (John 3:16; Revelation 3:19–20, 21:4, 22:5).
2. Make notes regarding your thoughts about God's love.

End of Week Review

Review your week and your above journal log. Do you see a particular pattern or theme in your love relationship with God?

—End of Week Two—

Week Three

Loving God and People

When we realize how much God loves us and how much He has done for us, we love Him in return. In other words, as the apostle John writes, we love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). If we have difficulty in loving because of past abuse or shame, we need to remember that God has poured out His love into our hearts by His Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). We do not have to manufacture love. The Holy Spirit enables us to love just as He enables us to follow Christ. We need to trust God's promise of Romans 5:5 and cooperate with His Holy Spirit.

Discipleship and leadership are about loving people. Since we love God, we love the people He has created in His image—rich or poor, healthy or handicapped, your ethnic group or another ethnic group, high intelligence or low intelligence, young or old, pleasing personality or rotten personality. We lead because we love God and want to influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for *all* people to experience God's love and purpose for their lives. God wants all people to come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved and of course that is the way to encounter the Father's love and purpose for our lives (1 Timothy 2:2–4; John 14:6). While we cannot meet and therefore love everyone, we can take responsibility for those in our own lives, including the strangers we come into contact on a daily basis. There are people we walk by while doing our activities, people we talk with on the phone, email, or other communication while organizing our business, school, medical, or recreational pursuits. These people we can learn to love well. *Now is a good time to ask God for supernatural favor to achieve a perfect love walk!*

Mission

Pray and ask God to help you sincerely love people. Then meditate on the Bible verses listed each day for inspiration to love your neighbor with your thoughts, words, actions, and deeds. To put our love in action, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you daily in showing God's love to one or more people. Be prepared to share some of your experiences with your discipleship team.

Day 1

1. Meditate about loving God and others (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:37–40; Luke 7:44–47).
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

Day 2

1. Meditate about loving God and others (Deuteronomy 6:4–8; Matthew 5:43–48, Luke 23:34; 1 Thessalonians 3:12).

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

Day 3

1. Meditate about loving God and others (2 Samuel 9:3–10; Luke 10:39–42).

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

Day 4

1. Meditate about loving God and others (Deuteronomy 11:1; 1 Kings 8:61; 1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 25–26, 13:1–7)).

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

Day 5

1. Meditate about loving God and others (John 14:15, 21, 23–24; 1 Peter 1:22, 2:17, 4:8).

2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

Day 6

1. Meditate about loving God and others (Mark 12:30–31; Luke 10:27; John 3:16–21, 4:24–26, 15:12–13; Revelation 2:1–5).
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

Day 7

1. Meditate about loving God and others (Genesis 13:5–9; Esther 4:15–16; Proverbs 3:5–6; Jeremiah 29:13; 2 Corinthians 5:15).
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to specifically lead you in loving God and your “neighbor” to glorify God. Share how the Holy Spirit led you.

End of Week Review

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

—End of Week Three and Lesson 11—

Next—Lesson 12: Praying Leader, Unit 3: Christian Leadership

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