

## **The Mission of Jesus Must Be the Mission of Jesus' Followers**

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Jesus called disciples with a phrase we know well: "follow me." We as Christians are called to follow him. Jesus called his followers to take up a cross. He called his followers to put him first. To follow Jesus means that his mission and purpose become our mission and purpose. Too often, we think we know what is best. We dream up and plan a project and then we ask Jesus to follow us. We ask him to bless our plans and activities. We have it backwards!

God's goal in this world is not hard to identify. The saving work of God through Jesus Christ was designed to bring everyone together under the lordship of Jesus. God's eternal purpose defines our mission. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. We answer the call to follow Jesus when we work toward his goal. We follow him. That foundational truth redefines how we live, how we do church, how we reach out to others. Eternity is always in view for the Christ-follower. Doing good things is not enough. Our goal is spiritual. Our goal is to impact and alter eternity.

"Start with the end in mind" is solid advice. Knowing where we are going informs and prioritizes actions. Scripture describes the end God has in mind. *"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9).* God's goal is to redeem a vast family from every people group and culture. That goal is reflected in the mission Jesus gave his followers.

The Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) reflects God's eternal purpose: *Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* Jesus calls us to make disciples from all nations so that people from all nations and languages can be before the throne.

Jesus gave his disciples a strategy for fulfilling God's eternal purpose: wherever you go, tell people about Jesus. Make disciples. Begin next door, with neighbors, coworkers, friends, family. Make disciples who will make more disciples. When Jesus' mission is our mission, he promises us his power and presence. Be bold! Mention Jesus to someone this week. Include Jesus in your conversations.