

# Mission of God - Sermon Outline

**Big Picture Purpose** - to invite us into the big story of God's work and intention with creation and to understand our place and purpose in that story.

**Scriptures: Genesis 1: 26-28 | Matthew 22:34-40**

**OPENING STORY** - *Tell a story about a time when you or someone else only had part of the story or was missing something vital and got into trouble or something funny happened.*

We need to know the whole story. We have often focused on a narrow part of the picture of God's love for us. We have focused on the FALL and God's REDEMPTION through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

However, there is a bigger story:

## CREATION | FALL | REDEMPTION | RESTORATION

It is important we begin in the beginning (Genesis 1) and we finish at the end of the story (Revelation 21).

### CREATION

When God created the heavens and the earth He place us in the garden, with a task to cultivate and build. God gave us 4 keys relationships - With God, Each Other, Ourselves and Creation. We will use these 4 key relationships to talk through the narrative of CREATION | FALL | REDEMPTION | RESTORATION

#### Read Matthew 22:34-40

**A love for God** - If God created us, it makes sense that our purpose in life is intimately connected to Him. Our highest call is to love the Lord our God (Matt 22:37).

**A love for each other** – It is not good for people to be alone. We see that God's handiwork is made to flourish in relationships, which is a reflection of his own relational being as he is three in one: Father, Son and Spirit.

**A love for ourselves** - We are to love ourselves by seeing ourselves the way God sees us and by becoming the person God wants us to become.

**A love for God's creation** – in the story of creation, God is asking us to change, and even enhance, the good creation God has given. The narrative tells us that God gives humanity stewardship over the whole of creation.

## **FALL**

### **A broken relationship with God**

Humanity's sin resulted in a broken relationship with God. We sought goodness and happiness on our own, apart from God, and became naked. We couldn't clothe ourselves physically, spiritually, morally, intellectually or emotionally.

### **A broken relationship with others**

Our relationship with others would be marked by strife. The consequences of this are not just limited to ourselves alone. As a result, humanity must now deal with evil in relationships and society.

### **A broken relationship with ourselves**

We began to love ourselves, rather than God, resulting in worshipping the creature, not the creator. Because of sin, man is less than fully human. The image of God is marred. This brokenness is seen as humanity becomes a slave to its own Sin:

- Rationally – difficulty knowing the truth, goodness and beauty
- Morally – difficulty discerning good and evil
- Socially – exploits others and loves self inordinately
- Creatively – leads to idolatry rather than worship of God

### **A broken relationship with the created order**

Humanity's work would now be marred by strife. The result was a broken relationship with the rest of the created order. Rather than unbroken harmony, there would be brokenness and pain. We would exploit the world for our own gain, rather than nurture the world God had given us to steward and care for.

## **REDEMPTION**

At the centre of God's mission is the salvation of humanity, the creature made in the image and likeness of God. He does not simply save an individual. He rescues a people (1 Peter 2:9).

### **Reconciled to God**

Humanity without Christ is without hope (Eph. 2:12). When we accept Jesus, repent and accept the Father's forgiveness, we are restored to a relationship with God so that we can step into everlasting hope.

### **Redemption in our relationship with God and with others**

Alongside healing our relationship with God, Jesus redefines our relationships with others (2 Corinthians 5:16). In the natural course of things, we see others in terms of our fallen nature - as competitors, as those beneath us, or as enemies. The cross flips this on its head, redefining the way we must see and interact with each other in God's love (Romans 13:8).

### **Redemption in our relationship with ourselves**

The cross makes us into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are no longer corrupt sinners. The image of God in us is being restored to the original intention until we become like Christ – the perfect God-man or woman who reflects the goodness and glory of God.

### **Redemption in our relationship to the created order**

Making disciples of the nations is our first role in the Mission of God, bringing people to Christ and restoring humanity to God. As His image-bearers, we are also called to reflect him into whatever situation God places us into, glorifying Him in our relationships, work and rest.

## **RESTORATION**

Our part in the restoration of all things extends beyond personal salvation, encompassing all of life and all elements of human culture – relationships, family life, education, arts, sciences, entertainment etc.

If the Church is intended to be a display of the kingdom in the present age, that display should reveal itself both in the Church and in the world, in our relationship with the body of Christ and with the broader culture in which we live.

Regardless of calling, God assigns us a responsibility in the *Missio Dei*. Whether in our vocation, family, or other spheres of influence, God calls us to honour Him by reclaiming everything for His glory.

## **APPLICATION**

*Apply this to your congregation. Where are they placed to bring the good news of this complete picture to the world around them?*

*Take some time to imagine what your church community, families and work places would look like if people lived in the light of this big picture narrative. What if people were living with this deep call and purpose? What would they do?*

*Share 3-4 clear pictures of what this would look like and what the impact would be.*

*What would happen if we didn't do this?*

*Share 3-4 clear pictures of what this would look like and what the impact would be.*

*Invite everyone to participate in this, to discover what God has for you as a community and to cheer each other on as you engage with the big picture plans of God.*

**PRAY:**

*Commission and send out the congregation in the love of God to live out the restoration and renewal of all things.*