

The Mission Heart of God

Genesis 12:1-4

What is the point of a vacuum cleaner if it doesn't work? Suck dirt off of floor. Can you use it-dining room table, car?
= what is the point of keeping old cars that don't work? *TN. Just taking up space? What were you created for? Taking up

*5 Key questions to help us understand the Mission Heart of God and our place in it.

What is our purpose in life? To glorify God in all that we do and live to enjoy Him in all that we have
(Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31)

What is missions? Missions is taking the message of the Glory of God and His good news (gospel) to those who need to hear it and see it in action (service =love in action) -

- Who needs to experience God's glory/grace? Everyone Home/neighbors/Community/Nation/World

What is the gospel? The Gospel is the Good News that though every person on the earth is a sinner, rebellious toward a Holy and gracious God, and incapable of being good enough, or doing enough "good" things to get to heaven, that out of God's own love and mercy toward us, He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to come to earth, live a sinless life, and die a criminal's death on the cross - taking my punishment for all my sin, taking my place as a substitute for my rebellion against God - and Jesus having died on that cross was buried, and raised to life three days later as the resurrected King of glory - WHY? So that **anyone** who will acknowledge they are sinners in need of a Savior, and who will confess their sinful and broken life before Jesus, and surrender their life to Lordship of Jesus in all things - putting their trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord - WILL BE converted from spiritual death to life (based on God's promises) and saved from self, sin, and hell as the eternal punishment for those who still rebel against God. **This is the Good News, that God saves sinners like you and me.** "Gospel"=God's spell=God's story/mission = **His Heart -RESCUE**

Why is missions important? J. Piper: "Missions exist because worship doesn't" = **changed me**

A. **Worship** is the goal and the **fuel** of missions. God is owed glory. Worship (freely given out of a heart of gratitude for being rescued) = gives God glory. **Our purpose on earth= glorify Him**
-Missions is our way of saying 'the joy of knowing Christ is not a private, or tribal, or national or ethnic privilege. **It is for all.** And that's why we share the gospel with everyone. That's why we go around the world. =**Because we have tasted the joy of worshiping Jesus, and we want all the families of the earth included.**

- "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you." (Psalm 22:27) **Worship is intended for ALL.** = We must send

- Piper "Seeking the worship of the nations is fueled by the joy of our own worship. You can't commend what you don't cherish. You can't proclaim what you don't prize." Do you??

What does the Bible teach us about missions?

A. God will have His way and bring the gospel of good news of grace to all **people**

-Rev. 7:9-10 "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all the* tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb - Jesus." - In the end, God wins! Love wins. **Not everyone will be there=hell real**

B. God will use the **Church**, that's us to bring the tidings of good news to all people. **Not optional**

C. God has a **missions heart** - a heart to spread His glory and worth among His creation, an act which is the most loving act God could show us: To display His holy glory and invite us to partake in it; to rescue us so we can truly know God; love God; enjoy His presence & life-changing reality forever. **The mission heart of God is a rescuing heart of mercy & glory**

BIG Story of Scripture: Creation, the Fall, Judgment, Redemption (CROSS), Restoration (RESCUE)

READ Genesis 12:1-4 -This is where the mission heart of God is first seen in Scripture

1. Consider the heart of God for His own glory and purpose
2. Consider the heart of God for Abram
3. Consider Abraham's calling and "risk" and his obedience

"Now the Lord said to Abram ("exalted Father"), "Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; ² And I will make you into a great nation,

And I will bless you, And make your name great; And *you shall* be a blessing;

³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who ^[a] curses you I will ^[b] curse.

And **in you** all the families of the earth will be blessed."

⁴ So Abram (obeyed) went *away* as the Lord had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran."

1. Consider the heart of God for His glory and purpose: the heart of God is about **movement**: (moving us/changing us/transforming us from death to life; darkness to light; unholy/holy)
 - A. By RESCUE: God saving us (death to life); - Regeneration (new birth: darkness to light)
 - B. By Justification: God declares us **righteous** /holy -**imputation** = God makes us righteous/Son
 - C. BY Sanctification: God is changing us **daily** into His likeness (Rom. 8:29); into holiness

Everywhere in Scrip. We see God intervening in people's lives to move 'em/change 'em.
-Do you want your children to stay at a 1st grade reading level/social cues/?? NO

VS. 1: "Now the Lord said to Abram "Go [movement] ...Go from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

-In this passage, we see the heart of God for missions in that God purposed to glorify Himself in a people **yet to exist** (Israel). **Like planting a tree now for someone else to enjoy shade one day**

-Psalm 78:5 "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,"

-The Lord purposed to spread His glory and renown across the world to a people who were yet to exist, and to a people who did not know He existed as the One True God.

-God's heart is a missional heart. He will take the gospel message to people who have yet to hear

2. Consider the heart of God for Abram

VS. 1 "Now the Lord said **to Abram** Go from your country, and from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

-The Lord is all powerful and can execute His sovereign will in anyway He chooses. **Yet**, the Lord, in His relational capacity, **invited Abram** into God's divine purpose and adventure

-The Lord invites us to join Him in His divine purpose and mission for the world -**RELATIONSH**
***Your children want to help you mow lawn/paint the house (put water on brush) =relationship**

=We grow in our relationship **with Him** as we watch and respond to what He is doing around us

=We grow in His likeness as God moves within us to mold us & grow us into His image/passion

=We are actually used to bring the message of life, hope, salvation to those who are starving

- In saying yes to a relationship with Jesus, we can have REAL impact upon others as Christ

shines THROUGH us to bring the gospel to others. We are those who spread His Glory and JOY!!

***But noticed, what God asked of Abram:**

3. Consider Abraham's calling and "risk" and his obedience **Vs. 1:** "Now the Lord said to Abram Go from *your* country, and from *your* relatives And from *your* father's house, To the land which I will show you;

- God was calling Abram to Himself as much as He was calling Abram to a task
- God was calling Abram to Trust Him with the **unknown & uncomfortable. = RISK**

(75 years: Leave who you know; leave what you know; leave where you know; leave the safety and security and prosperity of this life you've built for yourself = this felt risky b/c Abram risked everything on GOD.)

- If we are going to be used by God, to be on mission WITH God, it will cost us! We have to TRUST God for everything and leave the results to the Sovereign King of Universe.
- How are you at trusting? How is your trust quotient?? Is God worthy of your trust?
- ***Is it really risky to trust an all-powerful God who owns it all and controls it all??**

Vs. 2: And I will make you into a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; **And you shall be a blessing;**

-Because God has ordained that blessing comes from obedience (& obedience requires risk), watch what God wanted to accomplish through one unknown man's obedience to the Lord:

- A. B/C of Abram's obedience ... he and Sarai had a divine encounter and relationship w/ God
- B. They witnessed the miracle of their son Isaac's birth, and new life was born upon this earth
- C. God blessed Abram with untold wealth, power, & influence (*never* guaranteed, why reject it?)
- D. Through Abram's lineage Isaac, then Jacob – 12 sons = 12 tribes of Israel
- E. Through Abram's lineage the nation of Israel would be born – God's own chosen people
- F. Through Abram's lineage Jesus would be born from the tribe of Judah – the Savior of World

Vs. 3:..... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed

-B/C of Abram's obedience to the call of God to go, billions have been saved through his heir, Jesus of Nazareth.

-B/C of Abram's obedience, we are still talking about him 4k years later. We are still learning from him, and being encouraged by his example to our own lives. We can still relate = **scary!!**

- God could have chosen anyone in the year 2165BC to bear all these blessings, but he asked Abram. He asked Abram to Know Him, to risk on Him, to begin a walk with Him, to JOIN Him.

- 2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." - is your heart fully committed to the Lord today?

- What is the Lord asking of you today?

-What will be your response to Him as He calls you into relationship & obedience?

APPLICATION:

God's Heart is a **rescuing** Heart, saving us from ourselves, sin, and an eternity sep. from Him/hell

God's Heart is a **relational** heart, inviting us & others into a life-ch. relationship with Him

God's Heart is a **MISSIONAL** Heart, bringing the gospel to the peoples of the world in desp. need

This is a rescue mission. **When were you rescued?** Your story? *Survivor stories "13 Lives" film*

- Will you Join God on Mission to rescue others? Will you pray that God will show you WHO?
- Who in your Family needs to hear the gospel story clearly?
- Who in your neighborhood? In this community? Who at work? At school?
- What will it take for God to move you to action? Like Abram obey? Or Not???

In WWII, in late 1944 and spring of 1945, the American Red Cross sent millions of care packages with food rations, medicines, coats and shoes to many German concentration camps all throughout Europe as word spread that millions were being imprisoned. Yet, not one care package was ever delivered to those in dying need. In 1945, as the Allied forces began liberating camp after camp – the horror had set in that for millions, it was too late. The Red Cross care packages set in huge warehouses throughout Germany – untouched. In the original packaging, unwrapped. The enemy made sure the life-giving packages were never to be distributed to bring hope and save lives – meanwhile lying to the public that all prisoners were in good shape and being well-treated.

The Allied soldiers had to fight and many gave their lives to rescue the imprisoned and dying. For many it was too late. It fell to a few of the escaped prisoners who were rescued and told their stories to begin to distribute the much needed aid to the few survivors. The walking dead – could barely take in any of the given resources.

- We have been given a life-time supply of the Gospel. We have warehouses of it ready
- We have been called to break through the spiritual lines of the enemy (through prayer) and begin to give away the life-giving resource of the gospel to those in desperate need.
- Will you go? Will you help others be rescued as you have been rescued. Who will you share with? Who's your ONE?

Community Group Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, describe the Mission Heart of God
2. Are you surprised by the statement that God wants to spread His own glory first & most?
3. What is your response to the statement that “Missions exists because worship doesn't?”
4. If God wants people to be saved and enjoy Him forever, why do you think not everybody goes to heaven? Could God not force everyone to be saved? If so, what's out of character for God to do that??
5. What is your personal takeaway from God's calling of Abram's story? What is God calling you to do?