

The Five Commissions of Jesus

Description: In this class, Evangelist Desmond Henry takes us through the five commissions of Jesus found in the Scriptures. We learn that God puts a great emphasis on fulfilling the Great Commission. He does not expect this to be accomplished through the efforts of a privileged few, but by every believer.

Meet the Evangelist: www.desmond-henry.com Desmond Henry is a missional thought leader, Professor of Missiology, author and speaker who serves the global church in evangelism and mission. He currently serves as Registrar and Missiologist for the Baptist Theological College in Johannesburg and has served as a lecturer in 'Face the Nation' (non-profit) training students from the University of Botswana for peer-based ministry in high schools. This initiative won the Willowcreek Courageous Leadership award in 2008 for being the most innovative Faith-based ministry to people with HIV in Africa. Desmond serves as honorary teaching pastor of Crosspoint Family Church in Gaborone, Botswana where he mentors their pastoral staff and coaches their leadership team. Desmond serves as "Extraordinary Senior Lecturer for postgraduate studies at the North-West University and in 2017 was given the status of Visiting Professor at the Billy Graham Centre at Wheaton College. Desmond is passionate about engaging the world through evangelism (relational, apologetics and event-based) and mission and is excited by the task discipleship presents. Both he and his wife Lara are committed to serving and advancing God's Kingdom. They have three beautiful daughters; Gabriella, and twins, Olivia & Annabella.

Key Scriptures: Romans 15:20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Matthew 28:16-20; Genesis 11; Genesis 12; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2; John 3:16; John 4:34; Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:19-23

Key Points:

- The glory of God is the ultimate motivation for our mission. The glory and the fame of Jesus Christ should be the primary point we orbit around when it comes to serving the purposes of God. We should also have a genuine desire to see lives transformed and changed.
- It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission, who has a church in the world. The church's involvement in mission is a privileged participation in the actions of a triune God.
- All of Scripture speaks to the missio dei, the mission of God and of God's desire to draw people to Himself. In fact, the mission of God is what unifies the Bible from the creation to the new creation, all of Scripture speaks to the mission of God and His divine purpose in the redemption of humankind.
- Ultimately, the Gospel is the power of God given for the salvation of everyone who believes. The Gospel brings healing. The Gospel sets the captives free. We need to bear in mind that the Gospel is a power encounter with the living God, the true almighty, all powerful God and the gods of this world.
- We have a clear and a distinct message to preach and proclaim, and that is the message of repentance.
- Ultimately, there is no other name in heaven by which man can be saved but the name of Jesus Christ. The supremacy and the uniqueness of Christ in our Gospel proclamation must be front and absolutely center.

Notes:

Many churches around the world have lost their desire to evangelize or to participate in God's mission.

Motivation matters. Some people think we need to help God out. Some often share the Gospel out of guilt or sense of duty. Sometimes as Evangelists, we get into a numbers game. Obedience certainly is a motivation and a good one. But obedience in love is a far better way than duty. We share the Gospel because we love God, and it comes naturally to us to do so.

Five commissions of Jesus in the New Testament

1. Matthew 28:16-20
2. Mark 16:14-18
3. Luke 24: 44-48
4. John 20:19-23
5. Acts 1:4-8

God specifically calls and gifts some with the amazing ministry of being Evangelists, but all believers are called to share their faith with others and to do so in a way that brings glory and honor to God.

It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission, who has a church in the world. The whole Triune God, the fullness of God, is involved in missions.

In order for us to see an evangelization movement take place, you and I are called to get up and to go into all of the world and to preach the Gospel. Ultimately, people are not going to just hear in and of themselves.

Jesus is very clear that we are called to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Repentance and faith go together in the proclamation of the Gospel.

The entirety of the Bible shows us the framework of the Gospel—creation, the fall, separation from God, redemption, and new creation. God initiated a rescue plan originally through the line of Abraham, ultimately through Jesus Christ, which brings about the new creation—all things will be made absolutely new.

We are not all called to be cross-cultural missionaries, but we're all called to be witnesses for Christ. We are all called, and we are all sent.

The Greek word for witness is *martus*. We get the English word martyr from this word. Technically, the definition of witnesses is one who tells what he has seen, or she has seen personally or experienced. A martyr is someone who would sacrifice his life for the cause and for the sake of the Gospel.

Your Notes Page: