

Class 1 - The Heart of Outreach

1. Outreach is *part* of the mission

- Jesus told us to pray:

Matthew 6.10

“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

- The kingdom is the point, not just evangelism.
- That is why Jesus expressed his mission in broader terms:

Luke 4.18-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

- Jesus "went around doing good" ([Acts 10.38](#)), not only so people would become Christians but also so that the world would see the heart of God.
- Christians are called to care about people because that is the heart of God, not only for the purpose of saving them (Matthew 25.31-46; James 1.27).
- God's plan *is* for personal salvation but *also* cosmic healing (Romans 8.19-23; Colossians 1.19-20; Revelation 21.11-5).
- In this series, we are focussing on outreach for salvation--something that delights God--it's just that we need to remember it is not the whole of the mission.
- Why does this matter?
 - Because it is Biblically accurate
 - Because it helps us avoid distorting God's mission

2. The heart of God - what it caused him to do

John 3.16-17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

- God's compassion made him generous.

1 Timothy 2.3-4

“This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

- God is compassionate towards everyone.

3. The heart of God - revealed in Jesus

- How are we able to see God's heart?
- His heart is revealed in the way Jesus interacted with the lost.

Matthew 9.36

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

- **Two case studies of Jesus engaging with different people:**
- **Zacchaeus**, Luke 19.1-10
 - He notices
 - He engages with someone 'unrighteous' and is unashamed to do so

- Salvation impact



Luke 19.9-10

“Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.””

- **The woman at the well**, John 4
 - He breaks taboos
 - He engages with her at a human, personal level

- Huge impact



John 4.39-42

“Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.””

- What do we learn from Jesus?
- How can we develop more of his heart?
- What would living that heart look like for us in our personal context?

4. Our commission

Matthew 28.19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2 Corinthians 5.14-21

“For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

- Go...make disciples (in a variety of ways)
- Motivated by Jesus taking our sin and reconciling us to God

Discussion in small groups (20 minutes)

- What stands out to you about God and Jesus' hearts for the lost?
- What will help you to develop a heart for the lost like God's and Jesus'?
- What helps you to be motivated in outreach?
- Anything else from today's session?