

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 20 Sept: Church service.

Danny & Becky speaking. "Joining Jesus in His Mission - Part 2"

Sunday 27 Sept: Church service.

Malcolm speaking. "Joining Jesus in His Mission - Part 3"

Saturday 03 Oct, 8AM: Men's breakfast.

Sunday 04 Oct: Church service.

Sunday 11 Oct: Harvest Sunday. Collection of foodstuffs for Holywell School. Barry & Leon will introduce our annual collection for the charitable work of HOPE Worldwide in Afghanistan

Sunday 18 Oct: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 25 Oct: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 01 Nov: Church service. David speaking.

Saturday 07 Nov, 8AM: Men's breakfast.

Sunday 08 Nov: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 15 Nov: Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 22 Nov: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 29 Nov: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Saturday 05 Dec, 8AM: Men's breakfast.

Sunday 06 Dec: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 13 Dec: Church service.

Sunday 20 Dec: Carol service.

Sunday 27 Dec: Church service.

Other Events

Sunday 27 September: London-wide service. 11 am, Friends House, Euston Road, London.

Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>

Friday 30th October to Sunday 01st November: Autumn Student Retreat for the UK & Ireland.



Calling People to Someone - Jesus

How did it go this week, looking out for people in pain, and listening for the invitation to speak? Did God reveal anyone to you? What did you learn about the mission of Jesus this week? What was it like attempting to join him in his mission? We're all learning as we go, and I pray these lessons inspire us to join him in the most thrilling activity this life has to offer.

A Mission of Healing

You'll probably remember our focus last week. In the Nazareth synagogue Jesus reads and applies this Scripture to himself.



"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free." (Luke 4:18-19)

Good news. Freedom. Sight. Release. The healing of every kind of hurt — spiritual, emotional, physical, relational. A wonderful invitation — and the healing of the world is not a programme but a person, standing in front of us. But the mission can go wrong in us. How does this happen?

When the Mission Goes Wrong

Skye Jethani, in his book *With*, says of Jesus:

"Although God's mission dominated his life, it did not define it."

Busy, needed, pressured — yet never frantic; he prays, he withdraws. Jethani warns what happens when we lose that:

"Missionalism starts slowly and gains a foothold in [our] attitude. Before long the mission controls almost everything: time, relationships, health, spiritual depth, ethics and convictions... In its worst iteration, the end always justifies the means."

Even with good intentions, we can put God's mission ahead of God himself. Jesus warned of those who did great things in his name but never desired him (Matthew 7:21-23).

This is not a call to do less; it is a call to love God more.

Stick With the One Who Sends

Paul understood the difference: his calling — messenger to the Gentiles — was not his treasure; his treasure was Christ.

"...whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."
— *Philippians 3:7-8*

"First and foremost we are called to Someone, not to something. What brings a person value, significance and hope is not what he does but with whom he does it."
Os Guinness

Luke says the same of Jesus:

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and... he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

His ministry flowed from being with the Father; ours must flow from being with him.

So nothing about our discussion from last week changes — the healing kingdom is real, and it needs our hands. But the sending, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21), only makes sense if we stay close to one who sends. Mission flows from that connection; it never replaces it.

Reflection Questions For This Week

Before you serve someone this week, check in with Jesus first.

- Is my mission flowing from my life with Jesus — or has it moved ahead of him?
- Where did I see the poor, the prisoners, the blind, the oppressed this week — and what is my one next step?

Look for the pain. Listen for the invitation. But do it with Jesus. Stay close to the King, and your hands will find their work.

Your brother, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

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Watford Media



P.S.

Which of these four areas of pain have you noticed recently? The poor, the prisoners, the blind, or the oppressed?

